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FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. NUCLEAR TEST BLAST

Geneva Delegates Condemnation

LD260002 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva March 25 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports:

The nuclear test held by the United States at the range in Nevada on March 22, has been condemned by many delegations taking part in the work of the Geneva conference on disarmament.

"By its actions the USA shows utter disregard of the interests and opinion of the rest of the world and of a considerable part of the public opinion in the USA," Viktor Israelyan, head of the USSR delegation, said at today's plenary meeting.

"The explosion is the response of the White House to the demands of the international public, numerous decision of the United Nations General Assembly and aspirations of millions of people of good will all over the world."

"The explosion is the response of the White House to a convincing call of the leaders of the six countries who, at a critical moment, urged the leaders of the USSR and the USA to keep from any nuclear tests in the period till the next Soviet-U.S. summit meeting. And finally, this is how Washington responded to the demand of the majority of ordinary Americans, representatives of different political and anti-war organisations of the USA, decisions of the U.S. Congress. This militaristic action by Washington", the Soviet representative stressed, "highlighted the falsity of the assertions about so-called democratic nature of the power existing in the USA, which proved capable of openly ignoring not only the wish of the American public but even the recommendations of the country's supreme legislative body."

The stand of the Soviet Union which for over eight months now has been observing a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions and views their banning as a step of extreme importance in the context of the programme of nuclear disarmament advanced in Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of January 15 this year, is essentially a constructive answer to all proposals aimed at an early working out of an effective international agreement on the problem.

Representative of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Konstantin Tellalov said that the explosion at the range in Nevada was a political action running counter to the efforts to overcome the impasse at the Geneva talks on a comprehensive test ban, for which the delegations of socialist, non-aligned and neutral countries are striving.

"Sweden has always declared for the advance at the talks on this problems and for reaching arrangements", Sweden's representative Rolf Ekeus told the TASS correspondent. "My country strongly favours the idea of a moratorium of testing, regarding it as a very important step on this road. The staging of another U.S. nuclear explosion, as Sweden's Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson emphasised, is extremely disappointing".

The head of Argentina's delegation Mario Campora emphasised on his part that representatives of the six countries, the authors of the address to the leaders of the USSR and the USA, are now holding contacts to arrive at a joint assessment of the situation that has developed.

Security Committee Statement

LD252214 Moscow TASS in English 2107 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- The Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation has issued the following statement:

Despite the hopes of European peoples and entire humanity, in defiance of the Geneva spirit, the U.S. Administration still took a reckless step. The testing of nuclear arms at the range in Nevada is a new disgraceful action of U.S. militarists.

The Soviet public cannot overlook this act of defiance. The decision to set off the explosion was made at a time when the USSR has been observing for almost eight months a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and proclaimed its readiness to keep from nuclear blasts even after March 31 of this year, till the first U.S. nuclear weapon test.

The explosion of March 22 in the USA was staged just a few days after the Soviet Union's address to America calling on it that everything should be done to end nuclear tests in accordance with the will of the peoples, their striving to ensure durable peace on earth.

The new U.S. test in the USA is also an ostentatious refusal of the proposal of the leaders of six states, including two European states, to keep from any nuclear tests in the period till the next summit meeting. The U.S. militarists thus flouted the will of peoples of seven countries which are inhabited by over a billion of people, the will of all who treasure peace.

One cannot fail to see that the implementation of the dangerous plans to spiral the arms race on earth and to spread it to outer space is sped up in Washington under the pretext of the concern over the U.S. security.

Together with all peace forces, with the anti-nuclear movement mounting in the world, the Soviet public demands resolutely that the U.S. Government stop pushing humanity to the abyss of nuclear holocaust.

We urge all realistic people, no matter where they live, in Europe or in America, to stop Washington's hand, to press for comprehensive test ban on the basis of an effective international agreement.

U.S. 'Indignation' Reported

LD251134 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Report by station correspondent in the United States, Vladimir Gerasichev]

[Text] The conducting of a new nuclear explosion by the United States has given rise to a wave of indignation in the country about this militarist action of the administration. Supporters of the movement to end the arms race came to the steps of he the Capitol protesting against the continuation of nuclear tests. "The Russians Have Stopped Nuclear Weapons Tests, Why Don't We Do the Same?" -- I am reading what is written on a banner carried by one of those taking part in the demonstration.

On the eve of the explosion 63 congressmen sent a letter to President Reagan demanding that he give up the planned tests. However, despite the opinion of the public and the congressmen, despite the voice of reason and the damand of the time, despite the hopes and expectations of millions of its citizens and peoples of other countries, the White House issued the order for the nuclear device to be detonated in the state of Nevada.

The power of the underground nuclear explosion was 10 times greater than the power of the bomb dropped by the Americans on Hiroshima.

THE NEW YORK TIMES draws its readers' attention to the fact that the Soviet Union has observed a moratorium on nuclear explosions since August of last year. What we are doing does not bring us any nearer to peace, stated Mark Hatfield, a Republican senator from the State of Oregon. Congressman Thomas Downey expressed himself along the lines that the explosion carried out by the United States gives the Soviet Union complete grounds for giving up observance of the moratorium. Democrat Congressman Thomas Downey is one of 84 co-authors of a new bill presented to the House of Representatives. The bill aims at inducing President Reagan's administration to hold talks on the conclusion of a treaty on the complete banning of such tests by means of temporarily halting the financing of underground nuclear explosions.

SEMEYKO DISCUSSES EUROPEAN SECURITY PROBLEMS

PM201414 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Lev Semeyko article under the rubic "Europe -- Our Common Home": "Unraveling the Nuclear Knct"]

[Text] The CPSU and the Soviet state regard Europe as one of the main dimensions of international politics. "Europe's historical chances and future lie in peaceful cooperation among the continent's states," the CPSU Central Committee Political Report to the 27th party congress stresses. "And it is important, while preserving the capital already accumulated, to move on: from the initial phase to a more stable phase of detente, to mature detente, and then to the creation of reliable security on the basis of the Helsinki process and a radical reduction in nuclear and conventional arms." In striving for the achievement of this lofty and noble objective and advancing a new program for nuclear disarmament the Soviet Union is proposing the implementation of a number of corresponding measures precisely in Europe. This is no coincidence.

All classes of nuclear arms -- tactical, medium-range, and strategic -- are represented on the Old Continent. This is the continent on which the nuclear arsenals of four of the five nuclear powers are concentrated. These arsenals of enormous aggregate might are capable of practically destroying European civilization.

Europe is a continent where security problems have posed particularly acutely for many reasons, and primarily because of the acuteness of the nuclear confrontation. This is why the USSR is proposing the beginning of the consistent freeing of Europe from nuclear weapons at the very first stage of the comprehensive disarmament program. The point of departure could be the elimination of the medium-range Soviet and American nuclear missiles deployed in the European zone. "If, without procrastinating or complicating the matter with other problems, it proved successful to eliminate the Soviet and American medium-range missiles on our continent, we would unravel maybe one of the complex knots of current world politics and clear the way to a considerable extent to the radical reduction and subsequent complete elimination of nuclear weapons," was how M.S. Gorbachev described the importance of the European aspect of nuclear disarmament.

The USSR is proposing consistent steps during whose implementation at each stage of nuclear disarmament maximum consideration would be given to all sides' security interests. At the very first stage, the USSR and the United States as the most powerful nuclear powers could set an example by completely eliminating the European ballistic and medium-range cruise missile potential. In what way is this proposal new?

First, it is not an isolated proposal but part of a general and precisely coordinated program for nuclear disarmament and must be implemented at the same time as a halving of the USSR and U.S. nuclear arsenals which can reach each other's territory. Second, such a major reduction in the nuclear threat enables our country to take a more flexible approach to the question of taking account of the Anglo-French nuclear forces, whose significance remains in full.

The proposal advanced by the USSR is that the United States should assume a commitment not to supply its strategic and medium-range missiles to other countries (let us remember, for example, the plans to supply Trident-2 missiles to Britain). In turn, Britain and France should pledge not to build up their nuclear arms (let us again remember that, according to existing estimates, the number of these powers' nuclear warheads is to increase by more than 1,000 by the beginning of the nineties). Otherwise universal security would be undermined as a result of NATO attempts to safeguard only its "own" security -- and moreover, by methods of building up arms.

Washington must realize that without security for the USSR there cannot be security for the United States, and without security for the Warsaw Pact countries there cannot be security for the NATO countries. In view of this the USSR has a right to expect realism and sense in British and French policy. The solution of problems of universal security require a common approach.

The measures proposed for the second stage, which is to begin no later than 1990 and last 5-7 years, are also in keeping with the interests of the equal security of the sides and consistent nuclear disarmament. After the USSR and the United States have completed the 50-percent reduction of their corresponding arms, all the nuclear powers will eliminate their tactical nuclear weapons with a range (radius of action) of 1,000 km. At least two factors are important here. First, the Soviet Union takes account of the position held by Britain and France whereby they would be prepared to join the nuclear disarmament process after a considerable reduction in the level of the Soviet and American nuclear potentials. As we can see, the USSR is in no way insisting on an immediate reduction in the Anglo-French nuclear forces. Second, if at the second stage Britain and France eliminate only their tactical nuclear means, the USSR and the United States would not only take analogous steps but would also implement further measures to eliminate medium-range nuclear arms. However the American allies would retain such arms. In other words, their security is in no way undermined in comparison with the present situation.

Finally, at the third stage (no later than 1995) it is proposed that the elimination of all remaining nuclear arms be completed so that not a single nuclear charge would remain on earth by the beginning of the 21st century.

In other words, the USSR's approach to the nature of nuclear disarmament measures is bold yet exceptionally delicate. It convincingly demonstrates a readiness to take into consideration the interests of not only its own security but also that of its partners in the disarmament process.

In order to accelerate to the maximum the reaching of agreements on medium-range missiles, the USSR has agreed at the Geneva talks to separate the question of these means from questions of space and strategic nuclear weapons. This is yet another favorable precondition for making a start this very year on freeing Europe from nuclear weapons and completely eliminating them in the world.

Unfortunately there is still no desire to acknowledge this in Washington. In response to the Soviet proposals, the United States has advanced a somewhat updated version of its previous "zero option" of 1981. The American "zero" is one-sidedly beneficial to the United States and NATO.

It is in keeping with the selfish interests of the United States and its allies in the Far East since it envisages the elimination of Soviet medium-range missiles in Asia too, whereas the nuclear threat to the Soviet Union there would not be reduced in any way. The current variant of the "zero" option is only new insofar as the United States envisages a 3-year timetable for its implementation. The question of eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe is essentially being blocked by invoking the British and French position and demanding the weakening of our defenses in the east of the country while the American military forces in that region would be retained.

The British Conservative government is in solidarity with the unconstructive American position. London is talking about the "unacceptability" of the Soviet proposals since allegedly the question of the limitation of the British nuclear forces can become a subject of discussion only after the completion of the Soviet-American Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms.

The overt and covert opposition of the U.S. leaders and some of their allies to the Soviet proposals cannot fail to put one on guard. Confirmation was provided by the U.S. President's radio address to Americans at the end of February. Calls for "a strong America" and new arms buildups again issued from the White House chief's lips. But what is needed today is not more leaps in the arms race but new political thinking and practical steps in the matter of complete and universal nuclear disarmament.

U.S. SEEN PREPARING TO RENOUNCE ABM TREATY

LD260721 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- In speeding up work under the "star wars" programme, the United States is preparing for a unilateral renunciation of the treaty on the limitation of ABM systems. This is seen from pronouncements by Richard Perle, U.S. assistant security of defence, at hearings held by one of the Senate subcommittees for the affairs of the Armed Forces. The high-ranking representative of the Pentagon said that already at the stage of experimental design and research work being carried out within the framework of the Strategic Defence Initiative, the United States will possibly have to adopt a "broad" interpretation of the ABM Treaty. According to the American hawks, such interpretation allegedly allows to conduct the testing of components of the anti-ballistic missile defence system, which is prohibited under that most important agreement. Richard Perle stressed that in his opinion the United States will have to deploy a large-scale ABM system with space-based elements irrespective of the fact whether the Russians agree or refuse to hold talks on a revision of the ABM Treaty.

PRAVDA VIEWS EAST BLOC MBFR DRAFT, WESTERN STANCE

PM201430 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent B. Dubrovin dispatch: "To Take Advantage of the Real Chance"]

[Text] Vienna, March [dateline as published] -- The latest round of the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe is almost over. It began on 30 January 1986 under particular conditions. New Soviet proposals had been published shortly beforehand. It was declared at the highest level on behalf of the USSR that, in parallel with the withdrawal of mass destruction weapons from states' arsenals, it is necessary to embark on an agreed reduction of conventional arms and armed forces, and that accord at the Vienna talks could signal progress in this direction.

It was from these clear-cut and honest positions that on 20 February the socialist countries submitted at Vienna's Hofburg Palace a detailed draft "Agreement on the Initial Reduction of Ground Forces and Arms by the Soviet Union and the United States With Subsequent Nonincrease in the Level of Armed Forces and Arms by the Sides and Related Measures in Central Europe."

The new document goes a long way to develop, specify, and supplement the socialist countries' proposals of 14 February 1985. Taking into account all the acceptable elements of the Western stance, it offers compromise solutions on a number of important aspects where agreement between the sides is lacking.

Bearing in mind that the Western powers have hitherto been unprepared for major reductions of ground forces, the socialist countries propose that the USSR and the United States reduce their forces by 11,500 and 6,500 men respectively within 1 year, this reduction being applied to service units including their regulation complement of [shtatnyy] arms and combat equipment.

A pledge on the nonincrease of the level of armed forces and arms in Central Europe by all 11 parties to the agreement must come into force following the completion of the planned reductions of Soviet and U.S. forces.

Important new steps have also been taken by the socialist countries on the question of sensible verification [kontrol] of the fulfillment of the agreement. It is envisaged to exchange in good time lists of service units to be reduced with withdrawn, together with reciprocal notification of the start and completion of reductions. In addition, the USSR has also proposed that permanent checkpoints to monitor entry into the zone of reductions be established for the entire duration of the agreement. On-site inspection [proverka na mestakh] as a result of a justified request is not ruled out, either. The creation of an appropriate consultation machinery is also envisaged.

In the opinion of the socialist countries' representatives, this is the first time in many years that a real chance has emerged to overcome the deadlock in Vienna. The draft which has been submitted lays practical foundations for this.

As for the West's representatives, unfortunately matters have hitherto not progressed beyond words. Moreover, observers are put on their guard by the obstructionist tactics employed in the past by the North Atlanticists and particularly by their speculation on verification [kontrol] problems. There are many indications that they would like to replace the task of reducing the level of military confrontation in Centarl Europe with verification [kontrol] measures which are not commensurable either with the nature and content of a possible agreement or with the real needs for verification [proverka] of its fulfillment. One can legitimately ask: Is that not being done deliberately so as to complicate the reaching of agreement in Vienna?

The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies are fully determined to achieve success at the Vienna talks. Provided the other side really desires the same thing, 1986 could be a watershed year for the Vienna talks.

U.S. DISARMAMENT DELEGATE'S ADDRESS CITED

LD201841 Moscow TASS in English 1754 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva March 20 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports:

One can hardly say if today's statement by the U.S. chief delegate to the disarmament conference smacked more of disrespect for his negotiating partners or of unwillingness to face real facts.

Ambassador Donald Lowitz concentrated on the threat of the militarization of outer space, the threat which is posed, if we are to believe him, not by the American plans to develop space strike weapons but -- by the Soviet Union, which has allegedly been going ahead with military space programs for a long time. So the United States presumably has to fulfil its SDI program to catch up with the dangerous rival. As for the disarmament conference, according to the American delegation, it should first define the concept of the "militarization of space" and "its peaceful uses." In other words, the American delegate suggests that a futile exercise in semantics should substitute concrete debates and the drafting of practical measures to prevent, in accordance with the demands of the world community, another dangerous round of the arms race and to keep weapons from space for the good of the whole of mankind.

Chief Soviet delegate Viktor Israelyan, giving a brief reply to the address by Lowitz, stressed the absolute untensability of his attacks on the Soviet Union. At the same time this address, he said, is clearly showing anew that the United States merely does not want a ban on space strike weapons or talks on this matter while trying to introduce such weapons in space as soon as possible to achieve military superiority.

Czechoslovak delegate Milos Vejvoda denounced the U.S. negative stand on another problem, the termination of nuclear testing. A ban on all tests is needed already now, he said. A U.S. moratorium on nuclear explosions, like that imposed by the Soviet Union, would constitute a step in this direction. Mikhail Gorbachev's recent reply to an address of the leaders of six countries is fresh evidence of the constructive approach of the Soviet side and its readiness to break the vicious circle of the arms race, Vejvoda said.

DELHI SIX RESPONSE READ AT DISARMAMENT TALKS

LD181839 Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva March 18 TASS -- The response of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the joint message of the leaders of Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden and Greece was read out by Viktor Israelyan, head of the Soviet delegation at the plenary meeting of the disarmament conference today. At the request of the Soviet delegation, the response will be issued as an official document of the conference.

The statement of the Soviet leader to the effect that the USSR will not conduct nuclear explosion even after March 31, until the U.S. conducts the first nuclear explosion, has aroused much interest among the participants in the conference, who are examining the problem of putting an end to nuclear testing as one of the top priority items on the agenda. As Jose Carlos Maritegui, Peru's representative, said, it is inadmissible to put off any longer the resolution of such an urgent issue under the pretext that the verification questions have allegedly not been sufficiently elaborated.

Mikhail Gorbachev's response to the message from the leaders of the six states is permeated with a sense of high responsibility as regards the issues of peace and disarmament, stressed Luvsandorijiin Bayart (the Mongolian People's Republic). The Soviet Union, he said, is again demonstrating it sincere will and striving to do its utmost to put an end to nuclear testing. As in the previous cases, the Soviet Union has positively responded to the appeal by the group of non-aligned and neutral countries to the USSR and the USA to refrain, as one of confidence building measures, from conducting any nuclear explosions, newsmen were told by A.S. Gonsalves, head of the Indian delegation.

FURTHER ON CEMA MACHINE BUILDING FORUM

Proceedings Reviewed

PM241641 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "CEMA Committee Session"]

[Text] Budapest, 21 Mar -- A routine session of the CEMA committee for cooperation in the machine building sphere has been held here. Taking part in its work were represenatives of Bulgaria, Hungary, the SRV, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR, the CSSR, and also the SFRY.

The session was chaired by I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR's representative on the committee.

There was an examination of questions of implementing the Comprehensive Program for the CEMA countries' scientific and technical progress through the year 2000, including questions of accelerating scientific and technical progress in machine building sectors, considerably improving machine and equipment quality, and ensuring the maximum development of production sharing and cooperation with regard to subassemblies and parts.

The committee approved the work plan of the coordinating council for flexible production systems and industrial robots for 1986-1987 and also a program of scientific research and experimental design work and the creation of prototypes and batches of robot equipment. A general agreement was signed on cooperation in the construction of a road machine production plant on the USSR's territory and an agreement was signed on setting up the "interrobot" international science-and-production association.

The representatives of the countries on the committee were received by G. Lazar, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

I.S. Silayev and other members of the Soviet delegation were received by F. Havasi, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee.

Silayev Remarks Cited

LD212102 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 21 Mar 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In Budapest the meeting of the CEMA committee on cooperation in the field of machine-building has ended. Yevgeniy Shirokov reports.

In order to better present the nature of the problems under discussion at this meeting, I visited one of the workshops of the Budapest transport-machine-building works, which supplies products to many of the socialist countries. Here a robot which has taken the place of 30-odd workers, previously engaged in heavy work, is operating. Precision of execution has also improved. This would be all very well, except that it was necessary to pay a Western firm a substantial amount in hard currency. In addition, difficulties could arise over spare parts in the future.

To strengthen their own base for the creation of robot technology and to insure that it is of world-class quality, the CEMA member countries with an interest in this field came to an agreement in Moscow in December last year to set up an international scientific-production association named "Inter-Robot."

Now, at the meeting in Budapest, this and other questions on the agenda of the session, have received tangible acknowledgements:

[Begin I.S Silayev recording] We considered and endorsed a program of work on comprehensive robotization. We agreed that we must not only conduct work on the production of finished goods but also strengthen to a considerable extent work on specialization and on production of individual components, parts, and units. For the first time at our sessions, questions about technical level, quality, and reliability were voiced with urgency. In our view it is important that all unanimously agreed that it is vital to more broadly develop direct links between institutes, design and other creative organizations, and between specific industrial enterprises. [end recording]

CEMA COOPERATION COMMITTEE OPENS MOSCOW TALKS

LD261019 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0805 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar (TASS) -- The 34th session of the CEMA committee for scientific-technical cooperation opened here today. Taking part are heads of committees, ministries, and departments for science and technology of CEMA member-countries and also a representative from Yugoslavia. The session will examine questions of the realisation of the comprehensive program of scientific-technical progress of CEMA members countries up to the year 2000. It will discuss plans to promote the accelerated development of the science and technology of Vietnam, Cuba, and Mongolia, and also questions connected with the development and perfection of cooperation in the field of scientific-technical information and primarily information supply within the comprehensive program of scientific-technical cooperation.

Other questions of the development of the scientific-technical cooperation of CEMA countries will also be examined.

UN ECONOMIC AIDE DISCUSSES TIES WITH CEMA

LD252356 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- The present state and prospects of developing relations between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) of the United Nations were discussed during a meeting here today between Vyacheslav Sychev, CMEA secretary, and Klaus Sahlgren, U.N. undersecretary-general and ECE executive secretary.

The two sides considered, specifically, questions connected with the CMEA's participation in the 41st ECE session. Sahlgren also had meetings today at the State Committee of the USSR for Science and Technology and the Department for International Economic Organizations at the Foreign Ministry of the USSR. During the conversations, the ECE executive secretary and the heads of the Soviet departments discussed questions connected with preparations for the work of the forthcoming ECE session and its working committees.

COMMENTATORS VIEW 'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION'

LD221313 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 86

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program presented by All-Union Radio foreign policy commentator Pavel Kasparov, with international affairs journalist Vitaliy Semenovich Gusenkov; deputy director of the Africa institute Aleksey Mikhaylovich Vasilyev, and Stockholm correspondent Vlaentin Gubernatorov]

[Excerpts] [Kasparov] I would like to ask a question about France. In particular, listeners Nikolay Gerasimovich Timonychev from the town of Sovayarvi in the Karelian ASSR, Viktor Antonovich Varlashino from Kherson, and Sergey Zhirikov, a 10th class pupil from one of the secondary schools in the town of Ustinov, ask us to talk about this country's politics. Many of you have also asked us to explain the results of the parliamentary elections in France that took place last Sunday, and to share our opinions in connection with the political changes which have taken place there. I have invited Vitaliy Gusenkov, an international affairs journalist who has taken part in our program on more than one occasion to answer your questions. Over to you Vitaliy Semenovich.

[Gusenkov] Thank you. I shall say at once that the main bourgeois groups -- the Rally for the Republic [RPR] headed by Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, and Union for French Democracy [UDF], the founder of which is the former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing -- were victorious in last Sunday's French parliamentary elections.

Now a few words about the French Communist Party [PCF]. The PCF was unsuccessful in the elections, it only received around 10 percent of the votes. It received 35 deputies' seats in parliament. The PCF's influence among the voters has fallen. It must be said that the party was waging a struggle in extremely grave conditions: It was obliged to act under massive fire, both from the bourgeois circles and from the Socialists, and a fierce anticommunist campaign was unleashed against it. But the Communists intend to thoroughly analyze the reasons for their failures. A Central Committee Plenum is to take place in the near future which will evidently investigate these problems. The party's opponents are already predicting its decline. These are, of course, hasty conclusions. The PCF has links with firm roots in the working class and the working people. It has a good organization. Thousands of communist cells operate at enterprises and in institutions. It is of course a serious force and its opponents must take it into account. In a statement which was adopted in connection with the election results, the PCF Political Bureau directs the Communists toward strengthening their unity and toward the activation of the struggle for the interests of people of labour.

France's future foreign policy can only be guessed at. The leaders of the bourgeois groups speak of their adherence to the interests of France, of defence of its independence in the intenational arena, but what is their attitude, for example, to the star wars questions, to the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative? For it is known that this is one of the key questions in foreign policy today. It is also known that President Mitterrand and the French Government have rejected the SDI. The French leaders have repeatedly stated that the deployment of strike weapons in space would lead to the undermining of strategic stability and to a further aggravation of the situation. Meanwhile, some of leaders of the RPR and the UDF are speaking in favour of SDI, saying that it is in keeping with the interests of France.

Jacques Chirac and other leaders of these groupings have also spoken in favour of the development of cooperation with the Soviet Union, and in favor of dialogue between France and the USSR. Of course, such intentions can only be welcomed. The Soviet side has always been in favor of the development of good relations and cooperation with France and, of course, any gesture in this direction will receive support and understanding in the Soviet Union. In conclusion, I should like to say that the present international situation urgently demands from all statesmen a responsible and considered approach to the problems of war and peace, a readiness to subjugate narrow party interests to the nationalinterests, to the interests of the interational community as a whole.

There are more letters requesting us to talk about the situation in the Middle East. I invite our guest, Doctor of Historical Sciences Aleksey Mikhaylovich Vasilyev, deputy director of the Africa institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences to reply. The first group of letters ask us to talk about the situation concerning Libya. Listeners Kobelev from Rostov na Donu, Mandilenko from Kharkov, and a group letter from Anashkin, Kovalev, Nikitin, Prokhorov, and Simenov of Smolensk ask us to talk about this. This situation concerning Libya has once again become more acute; the news agencies report a group of U.S.aircraft carriers are heading for its shores. Such a development cannot fail to evoke public alarm in the Arab countries.

[Vasilyev] Indeed. Libya has again -- and by no means for the first time in recent years -- become the object of pressure on the part of the United States, of imperialist threats, and of blackmail. All this is taking place under the standard of neoglobalism, under which the United States is attempting to establish the hegemony of the West, in fact its own hegemony, in many regions of the world, particularly in Northern Africa.

Maneuvers were held by the U.S. Navy some days ago in the Mediterranean Sea near the Gulf of Sidra off the Libyan coast. These were the third maneuvers of this kind in less than 3 months. According to reports by foreign agencies, which refer to informed Pentagon sources, these preparations could lead to new and even greater maneuvers. More than 40 combat ships will take part: 30 of them -- 2 aircraft carrier groups led by the aircraft carriers Saratoga and Coral Sea -- are permanently stationed in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea in direct proximity to Libya's territorial waters. Ten ships led by the aircraft carrier America are hastening across the Atlantic to the Mediterranean Sea. They are not only fostering a potential theater of military action in North Africa, but also claim that they are safeguarding U.S. national security. Where? Thousands of kilometers away from U.S. national borders. In this way they are attempting to threaten independent Libya with three aircraft carriers at once. Perhaps this North African country is threatening the United States?

This is absurd, yet this is precisely what lies behind U.S. propaganda. The aggressive preparations by the most powerful capitalist power against a developing country with a population of little more than 3 million is not caused by a threat from Libya. Washington does not like this country's anti-imperialist course in the international arena; its opposition to plans for U.S.-style Near Eastern conciliation; its support for the anti-imperialist struggle of other peoples.

Moreover, let me recall that after the 1969 Revolution a number of progressive transformations were carried out in Libya: The property of foreign companies was nationalized; a monopoly was introduced on foreign trade, as well as restricted land ownership; the role of the bourgeoisie in the national economy was reduced to zero. In general, measures were implemented to raise the standard of living of the population. Precisely for these reasons, for the edification of other recalcitrant states, the United States is threatening to meet our exemplary punishment to refractory Libya. Well, as far as Libya's refractoriness is concerned, Washington cannot fail to react bitterly to what Al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan Revolution said the other day. He stated that the United States is setting up a network of military bases throughout the world and is terrorizing peoples with nuclear missiles and naval fleets. The arsenal of U.S. imperialism includes armed aggression and the capture of other people's lands, economic sabotage, and physical elimination of politicians who are not to Washington's liking. According to him, millions of Americans, mainly representatives of the negro population and the country's native inhabitants, the Indians, are also victims of the discriminatory policy of the White House.

It is natural that in the opinion of the makers of U.S. policy, such a leader must be punished, so Libya is being threatened with an armored fist, an aircraft-carrier first, and by conducting military maneuvers off its shores. This is taking place on far-fetched pretexts: It is allegedly necessary to protect U.S. specialists employed at Libyan oil fields, although they themselves express the wish to work in Libya knowing that unemployment awaits them in the United States. Libya is being accused of complicity in terrorist acts, although these fabrications have been refuted. In short, without having thought up proper arguments, Washington is nevertheless again flexing its military muscles in the immediate vicinity of an independent sovereign state.

It would be logical for us to remember how, as a whole, the United States approaches the problems of the developing countries in its own policy. It is worth remembering a quotation from the latest message of U.S. President Reagan to Congress: We are seeking to assist the fourishing of social progress with the aid of a free, open, developing global economy which is market-orientated. We are making diplomatic efforts to help solve dangerous regional conflicts. It seems to me the U.S. President should have backed up this call with references to Libya, against which Washington is pursuing a policy of economic blockade, attempting to undermine its economy, and demonstrating its military might.

At present a new doctrine of interference in the affairs of the developing countries -- which frequently is unofficially called the Reagan doctrine -- has been drawn up in the United States. It consists of the intention of the United States to support rebels, to bring direct military pressure to bear on a number of countries whose policy is not to Washington's liking, and to assist the fall of their lawful governments. In the United States, participation in military operations of this kind is called the strategy of conflicts of low intensity. This is a way of pointing out how different they are from a large-scale war. But the possibility of small conflicts escalating into larger ones, even involving the use of nuclear weapons is envisaged. And now we see that Libya, the Libyan Jamahiriyah as this country calls itself officially, has become another target for subversive operations and military pressure within the framework of this new, unofficial Reagan doctrine.

[Kasparov] Aleksey Mikhaylovich, now I would like you to touch on another acute problem in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq conflict. Many listeners, particularly Comrades Kovalevskiy from Simferopol; Pyanov from the town of Karachev in Byransk Oblast; and many, many others, request us to tell them about this.

[Vasilyev] The war, the bloody military operations between Iran and Iraq, is continuing for the 6th year. In a military conflict of such a scale and length, which is taking its course manifestly without success for either side, there can be temporary successes and failures both for Iraq and Iran in the course of military operations. At the present time, as a result of bloody battles, Iranian troops have occupied a small bridgehead on the west bank of the Shatt al-'Arab River and part of Iraqi territory in the north of the country. But I would like to stress that there are no victors in this war. In this war both sides, which are incurring large human casualties which already run into hundreds of thousands of people, are suffering defeat. The war is resulting in colossal material havoc amounting to tens of billions of dollars. Their plans for socioeconomic development are being frustrated.

To the satisfaction of Washington and Tel Aviv, these countries have been removed from the confrontation against imperialism and Zionism, having been swallowed up by a cruel, bloody fratricidal war. The solution to this conflict can only be political. The Soviet Union, the countries of the Warsaw Pact, the nonaligned and other states have repeatedly called for this. However, unfortunately, this conflict is still continuing and the United States is using it to maintainand build up its Armed Forces in the regions of the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, and in the northern and northwestern part of the Indian Ocean.

[Kasparov] In front of me I have a letter from Comrade Smelkov from Murmansk. He is interested in the history of relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia. Recently, as is known, the Soviet public marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our country and Saudi Arabia. However, there is no Soviet or Saudi embassy either in Moscow or in Riyadh respectively. Can you comment on this situation, Aleksey Mikhailovich?

[Vasilyev] In diplomatic practice there can exist such a situation when two countries recognize each other and maintain diplomatic relations with each other, yet do not have corresponding embassies in their capitals. Relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia are precisely in such a condition.

As is known, within its present borders, Saudi Arabia was formed in 1925 after the conquest of the Western areas of the Arabian peninsula, and the conquest of Hijaz -- with the Muslim sacred places of Mecca and Medina located there -- by the Najd sultanate. In those years the Arabian peninsula was part of zone influenced by the British Empire, and recognition of this new state by others was important to help strenghten Saudi Arabia's authority in the international arena. In those conditions the Soviet Union was the first to recognize the new state. This happened in February 1926. At that time, the Soviet Union had a political mission in the town of Jeddah on the Red Sea coast. It was retained in the form of an embassy for over 10 years and was closed on the eve of World War II. Ever since, relations between the Soviet Union Saudi Arabia have been maintained via indirect channels.

The policy of the Soviet Union, or more precisely the Soviet Union's attitude regarding the exchange of embassies is clear and defnite. We believe that the presence of embassies would meet the interests of a political dialogue between both countries, would be a mechanism for normal diplomatic ties, and would serve the mutual understanding between both countries. In this sense it would meet the interests of both sides, as diplomatic exchange is a road with two-way traffic. And the Soviet Union is by no means more interested than Saudi Arabia in the exchange of diplomatic missions.

At the present moment there is so far no such exchange. This does not prevent our two countries from holding a number of common or close positions on a few important international questions, including the question of the struggle against Israel's expansionist aggressive course and on a number of other problems.

OVCHINNIKOV REVIEWS WEEK'S WORLD EVENTS

PM241245 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "International Review"]

[Text] Intentions and Actions

To turn energy of intention into energy of action. That is the idea behind the work of the Land of the Soviets after the 27th CPSU Congress. These same words could serve as a motto for its foreign policy efforts too. Setting itself the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons forever, the USSR actively seeks a total end to nuclear weapons tests. That is the aim of the appeal which the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium made to the U.S. Congress the other day. It recalls that our country, in its reply to the appeal of the leaders of Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden, and Greece, expressed readiness not to carry out tests even after 31 March -- until the first nuclear explosion in the United States. So seven countries with a population of more than 1 billion are now calling insistently on the U.S. leadership to join in this moratorium.

But the White House decided to carry out its next underground nulcear explosion in Nevada on 22 March. The Washington "hawks" are brazenly challenging world public opinion. The grave responsibility for the consequences of this shortsighted step rests with the administration. The White House's cynicism has aroused a wave of indignation even on Capital Hill. More than 50 congressmen said at a press conference yesterday that this step undermines the prospects for elaborating a treaty on a total end to nuclear tests and runs counter to the peoples' aspirations.

American imperialism would like to make mankind learn to live with the nuclear threat and the arms race. This will not happen. The Warsaw Pact states, says the communique issued by the Foreign Ministers Committee session held in the Polish capital, will do everything to ensure that 1986, which has been designated International Year of Peace is marked by real changes for the better in European and world affairs. They advocate constructive cooperation with all governments and peoples with a view to creating an all-embracing system of international security.

The members of the community do not by any means believe that they are divided from the other socialist countries by barriers of any kind. They are pleased by every step along the path of rapprochement between all the states of the world socialist system. In this connection the 27th CPSU Congress noted with satisfaction some improvement in the USSR's relations with its great neighbor -- socialist China -- and the possibility, despite differences in approaches to a number of international problems, of developing cooperation on an equal bases not affecting third countries.

One manifestation of this was the first session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Scienctific, and Technical Cooperation, held in Beijing. Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, received I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who was there to take part. The participants in the talk noted with satisfaction substantial progress in the development of trade, economic scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the USSR and the PRC in recent years and expressed the mutual confidence that the results of the commission's first session will give new impetus to this trend.

It was stressed on the Sovist side that the 27th CPSU Congress once again confirmed the USSR's consistent desire to improve relations with the PRC and expand multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese head of government stated that the USSR's course of accelerating socioeconomic development is arousing great interest in the PRC.

The protocol on the results of the commission's work notes that the volume of Soviet-Chinese trade increased by more than 60 percent in 1985. In particular, the possibilities of joint efforts in the construction and modernization of industrial projects in the PRC were examined.

"Thinking about the future," the Central Committee Political Report to the 27th congress said, "we may say that the reserves of cooperation between the USSR and China are enormous. They are great because such cooperation accords with both countries' interests; because what our peoples value most is indivisible -- socialism and peace."

The Adventurism of Strength

The dispute between the White House and the Capitol concerning military aid to the Nicaraguan "contras" has entered its decisive stage. The House of Representatives rejected the President's request for $100 million to be allocated for equipping the surviving Somozist gangs. The debates on this question were preceded by unprecedented intensive indoctrination of congressmen. At the same time there was an unbridled campaign following the formulas of McCarthyist times. If you vote "against," they said, you would be damaging U.S. national security and would be an "accomplice of international communism."

That was how the White House incumbent posed the question in calling on Americans to call their congressmen to urge them to vote "for." But the avalanche of telephone calls prompted by the President's television appeal had quite a different thrust. It was largely consonant with the opinion of O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives. He stated that the administration's policy in Central America is pushing the United States toward war, and likened the President's request to the notorious "Tonkin Resolution" whose adoption led to large-scale U.S. military intervention in Indochina.

An apt reminder. Reports have filtered through into the American press to the effect that without waiting for consent from Congress, the CIA has already drawn up a plan for reequipping and retraining the Somozist gangs. And the "Green Berets" are to play a direct part -- the very same "Green Berets" who were once used as instructors in Vietnam. And the process whereby the United States slipped into the Vietnam quagmire began with the sending of military specialists of this kind, followed by the stepping up of measures to protect them.

The results of the vote in the House of Representatives are regarded by the American and world public as a major defeat for the administration and personally for the President, who publicized his request with more energy than any other political campaign of recent years. Will lessons be learned from what happened? As yet, not noticeably. As events show, Washington's policy is still characterized by dangerous adventurism founded on the cult of strength.

Is not this indicated, for instance, by the disgraceful encroachment on the sea borders of the USSR and Bulgaria in the Black Sea, which was ostentation and challenging in nature and pursued clearly provocative goals? Citing official Pentagon spokesmen, THE NEW YORK TIMES writes that the American cruiser Yorktown and the destroyer Caron, equipped with sophisticated electronic apparatus, encroached on the USSR's territorial waters south of the Crimean peninsula with the aim of probing the Soviet defense system. The order to carry out this reconnaissance operation was issued by the Pentagon chief with the sanction of the White House and the State Department.

The newspaper draws a direct parallel between the incursion of two U.S. warships into Soviet territorial waters and the new American naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra. For the fourth time in recent months, the United States is carrying out a provocative show of strength off Libya's coast. The aircraft carriers America, Saratoga, and Coral Sea have now been drawn up to take part in this show in the Mediterranean.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, Pentagon spokesmen make no secret of the fact that the Black Sea operation and similar actions off the Libyan coast are designed to back up President Reagan's call for an increase in military spending in fiscal 1987. It is not for us to judge how far such provocations help to extract money for the arms race. But it is time the American public and the Congress gave thought to the fact that the adventurism of strength is pushing the United States to the brink of a military conflict with unforeseeable consequences.

Shift To The Right

The following question was the subject of numerous commentaries last week: What will be the consequences of the new distribution of political forces in France which has emerged from the parliamentary elections? As is known, the results of the vote brought success to the right and extreme right. The French Socialist Party (PS), which has ruled the country for the last 5 years, lost its majority in the National Assembly and its right to form a government. But the PS retained its position as the country's biggest political party (nearly one-third of the voters voted for it). A right-wing coalition has now entered the political foreground: the Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the Union for French Democracy (UDF). Together, they obtained a majority of seats in the National Assembly, but with only a minimal margin, though they were hoping for a more impressive victory.

The results of parliamentary elections indicate that the axis of France's political life has shifted to the right. This is also indicated by the emergence of the extreme right racist "National Front" group onto the parliamentary scene.

There were major losses for the French Communists, who were subjected to unprecedented fierce attacks from all sides. This time the French Communist Party [PCF] took 10 percent of the vote.

How can it be explained that the French Socialist, like the British Labor Party and the Social Democrats in the FRG before them, had to yield power to right-wing conservative forces? Perhaps the fundamental cause is the gulf between words and deeds. As a rule, in domestic policy Social Democrats do not make use of the levers of state power to implement the promises they made to the voters. Inconsistency in policy, concessions to businessmen who want to shift the consequences of the economic crisis onto the working people's shoulders -- and this is the result.

The PS came to power 5 years ago largely thanks to the support of the left-wing majority. It was with cooperation between the Socialists and the Communists that major companies and banks were nationalized and a number of the working people's social gains were enshrined in legislation. But soon the PS began to depart from the joint program. The Socialists had promised to create jobs for a million young French people, but with their "stringency" policy they increased the army of unemployed by almost that number.

The French election results show that the all-permeating force of the modern mass media can sometimes lead the voters astray and channel their displeasure in the wrong direction. Like the British Conservatives, the French right asserts persistently that state intervention in the economy only fetters initiative and fosters bureaucracy, and that appropriations for social needs engender parasitism. Shamelessly speculating on the growth of unemployment and crime, thugs from the "National Front" demand the explusion from France of Algerians and Moroccans and the imposition of order with an "iron hand" -- exactly like their brothers in the organization of the same name in Britain.

One aim of the mass indoctrination of voters was to mislead people sympathizing with the Communist Party. It was dinned into them that the best way of preventing a victory for the right was to vote not for the Communists, butfor the Socialists, who were supposedly capable of obtaining more parliamentary mandates. This method evidently played its part. The results of the parliamentary elections indicate that some people would like to transform the French political system along American lines and ensure that two parties or groups alternate in power -- that is, to create that appearance of change which is the essence of bourgeois pseudodemocracy. This plan presupposes the elimination of the PCF from the political arena. But the attempts to achieve this were thwarted, and in future too they are doomed to failure.

"Price War"

An extraordinary conference of OPEC is taking place in Geneva. On the agenda is a question which is by no means new for the participants: How to stabilize oil prices and what measures to take to retard their fall.

The "price war" which has now flared up on the world oil market is basically a new stage in a carefully planned offensive against OPEC. Its aim is to weaken and split the independent cartel of 13 developing states. At one time, the natural wealth of the majority of these states was subjected for many years to predatory plundering on the basis of the enslaving concession system. And even after the upsurge of the national liberation struggle forced the Western oil concerns to take a back seat, they retained their important positions in the transportation, processing, and sale of oil.

It was the notorious "seven sisters" who played a vile role behind the scenes in the 1973 and 1979 energy crisis. Having exhausted the possibilities of getting rich on rising oil prices, they set about using the opposite trend to their own advantage -- reducing prices. This change was determined by various factors. The twofold "oil shock" of the seventies prompted businessmen to introduce energy-saving techniques more actively and to substitute gas, coal, and other fuels for oil more frequently. Moreover, U.S. monopoly capital considered it preferable to partially conserve the country's own deposits by increasing oil imports from the developing countries. Even before, the American monopolists were infuriated by OPEC's influential and independent role in the oil market. Now a direct interest in reducing oil prices has been added to this.

In order to stabilize prices in conditions of low demand, since 1979, the OPEC members have reduced oil extraction by approximately one-half. However, their efforts proved fruitless, since such major oil exporters as Britain and Norway, which do not belong to OPEC, have increased the productivity of the North Sea deposits by 50-100 percent over the same period. Moreover, instead of acquiring oil from OPEC members on the basis of long-term contracts, the leading capitalist states are increasingly frequently resorting to spot deals on the surplus commodity market in Rotterdam. And that favors the growth of speculation.

Whatever the outcome of the current "price war," it is clear that it was undertaken as a form of neocolonialist plundering of the developing countries. And that is not all. The speculative machinations of the leading capitalist powers accelerate the process of exhaustion of world reserves of "black gold," which could lead to dire consequences for consumers.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S.-LIBYAN FIGHTING

Lomeyko 'Condemns' U.S. Moves

LD252057 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] A briefing took place for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow today, in the press center of the USSR Foreign Ministry. Vladimir Borisovich Lomeyko, chief of the Press Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, who spoke at the briefing, said in part:

[Begin recording] The USSR has learned with indignation of the latest provocative aggressive action against a sovereign state, Libya. The premeditated nature of this action is obvious. It can be seen from the fact that over a period of just under 3 months such a major power as the United States is carrying out its fourth demonstrative maneuver near the Libyan coast and is putting pressure on the sovereign state of Libya, threatening force and now using force.

No matter what false pretexts the U.S. Administration was advancing in its attempts to justify its provocative actions, it is quite clear that it is a question of attempts to legitimize its right to interfere in any region of the world, declaring it a sphere of its vital interests. The point is that deliberate actions are being undertaken, which aim to destabilize the situation in this region and to destabilize the whole system of international security.

These actions by the U.S. Administration cannot be assessed as other than a violation of the elementary norms of international law and as contrary to the UN Charter. This is in essence a clear manifestation of the policy of state terrorism, which is being conducted by the U.S. Administration in various hot spots on our planet and in a very dramatic manner now off the shores of Libya. It is also a matter of a manifestation of the policy of neoglobalism, a policy of blatant interference in the sovereign affairs of other peoples, an attempt to impose one's own will on other peoples by force.

This is based on nothing except disrespect for the sovereign rights of Libya whose policy, both domestic and in the international arena, is not to their liking because the state of Libya conducts its own sovereign, independent, and anti-imperialist course.

Soviet people declare their solidarity with Libya and resolutely condemn the actions of the U.S. military, which is exacerbating the situation not only in the region of the Mediterranean Sea, but which also threaten universal peace and universal international security as a whole. [end recording]

TASS Statement

LD251717 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 25 Mar 86

["TASS Statement" -- TASS item identifier; quotation marks as received]

[Text] [No dateline as received] The U.S. Administration, in continuing its line towards the aggravation of the international situation, has perpetrated an aggressive action against Libya, a sovereign state. On the night of March 24/25, 1986, American combat ships and planes struck a number of Libyan targets.

The premeditated character of the incident leaves no doubts. For a long time, they in Washington have not concealed their hostile intentions with regard to Libya. American Naval and Air Force units were deployed practically permanently off the Libyan coast. In recent days, the concentration of the U.S. Armed Forces in that region has reached unprecedented dimensions. The heightening of military tension around Libya was accompanied by direct threats against it. And all that was because the progressive character of internal transformation in Libya, that country's anti-imperialist, independent course in the world arena do not suit Washington.

"Whatever the false pretexts Washington resorts to now, it will not manage to justify the piratic nature of its actions. Manifest are an overt policy of state terrorism, disregard for the U.N. Charter and for the generally recognized norms of international law, an attempt at imposing its will upon other peoples by force of arms and at destabilizing the situation in the countries which have embarked upon the road of independent development.

"The piratic action against Libya sharply aggravates the explosive as it is situation in the area, which may lead to grave consequences going beyond its boundaries.

"This also manifests the U.S. overall course towards interfering in the affairs of sovereign states, towards stirring up seats of tension in various parts of the world, and towards creating a threat to peace and to international security."

Washington clearly seeks to maintain and heighten tension in world affairs, so as to prevent the improvement of the international situation. Such actions cannot but cause universal concern and indignation. The world public must raise its voice in defence of the cause of peace, of the inalienable right of every people to decide its own destiny.

At this time of trial for Libya, the Soviet people express their solidarity with the Libyan people. The Soviet Union has been and remains on Libya's side in its just struggle for its freedom and independence. The Soviet Union thus resolutely condemns the United States aggressive actions and demands that they be stopped.

Fedorov Commentary

PM251639 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

["Topical Commentary" by A. Fedorov under the rubric "6th Fleet Against Libya": "Attack Planes Deliver Strike"]

[Text] Alarming news has come from Tripoli. According to a Libyan TV report U.S. carrier-based aircraft made an incursion into the country's airspace on 25 March over the Gulf of Sidra. After Libyan air defense facilities opened fire on the violators, U.S. 6th Fleet attack aircraft bombed the suburbs of Surt.

The United States has committed an act of premediated aggression against a sovereign Mediterranean state. It has prepared for this act over a long period. In the past 5 years the Pentagon has staged militarist games off the Libya coast 18 times. And every time it has been seeking a pretext for delivering a strike. A U.S. Air Force pilot named (Maclintock) described his part in trying to provoke Libyan into armed conflict thus: "I had to fly along the coast at 15,000 feet. Then I had to turn and fly in the direction of the carrier, then execute a turning maneuver back in the direction of the coast, and so on.... It seemed to me like I was playing the part of a sitting duck."

A powerful American naval armada is drawn up right now off the coast of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It consists of over 40 warships, including 3 aircraft carriers with 240 planes aboard. No attempt is being made to conceal the provocative nature of the Pentagon's current maneuvers. As CBS TV informed us several days ago, quoting military department spokesman, "The U.S. Navy is going to challenge Libya in the Gulf of Sidra, essentially trying to provoke it into an attack against the United States." That provocation has now taken place.

The next attack is in the pipeline. According to foreign press reports the cruiser Yorktown and the destroyer Caron — the very ships that violated the USSR state border in the Black Sea on 13 March -- are to enter the Gulf of Sidra and "carry out operations in direct proximity to the Libyan coast." What kind of operations? The details are not given. But let us recall that on 25 October 1983 the Caron was the first to approach the shores of Grenada and open fire on the island. Its salvoes signaled the start of American aggression against Grenada....

The American Administration is trying to justify the armed incursions against Libya by reference to the desire to end the "threat of terrorism" supposedly emanating from that country. This is a blatant lie! It is precisely Washington, and not Tripoli, that is pursuing a policy of state terrorism. The United States is discomposed by Libya's consistent anti-imperialist course and its principled positions on the Near East problem. That is why the White House is banging its fist and sending in attack planes against Libyan cities.

Shabayev on U.S. 'Brigandage'

LD251340 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1211 GMT 25 Mar 86

["The USA: A Threat to Universal Peace" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS) — TASS political observer Boris Shabayev writes:

And so the United States has committed a fresh act of aggression, all the exceptionally dangerous consequences of which nobody is likely to take it up himself to foretell. A powerful naval group concentrated off the shores of Libya has made a rocket attack on the coastal town of Surt and vessels of the Libyan shore patrol have also been attacked. These are not now maneuvers, an NBC television commentator admits, but a real "one-sided war against Libya." "This has been a long time in the offing and finally it has happened," his colleague from ABC adds.

Any act of international brigandage and all the more one that is so overt and impudent, evokes a natural feeling of anger and indignation. However, one will have to refrain from emotion in order to assess the provocation in the Gulf of Sidra in the overall context of international relations.

The first thing that strikes one is the premeditated, planned nature of the American action. They are not only not trying to conceal this in Washington but they are even being defiant about it. The President, ABC again reports, has long been seeking occasions for "punishing" Libya and it is no secret that officials in Washington are pleased with what has happened. They sought the "occasion" so stubbornly that this year alone provocative military maneuvers were carried out five times off Libyan shores. The Pentagon finally sent 30 warships at one time into the Gulf of Sidra, including three strike aircraft carriers outfitted with 240 warplanes. Official members of the administration, the CBS TV company reports, were sure that this time a conflict would occur, as U.S. naval vessels were given the order "to go extremely close to the Libyan coast."

The second thing to which attention ought to be drawn to is the impudent self-assurance and unceremoniousness of the American Administration, clearly blinded by its doctrine of neoglobalism. Washington tries to "justify," without any inhibitions, the crudest violations of norms of international law, whether in the Gulf of Sidra, or off the coast of the Crimea, in Nicaraguan waters or in the Persian Gulf, by referring to some kind of U.S. "right" to treat sovereign states as if they were an American state, gone to pot.

Just ponder the essence of the statement made by G. Will, one of the pillars of Washington propaganda: "We are playing the role of an international policeman and international law cannot exist without such a policeman." And, for the benefit of those who are most slow-witted, Will explained that the "episode" like the one that has taken place in the Gulf of Sidra should prove to the whole world that the United States can, he said, set "certain limits on the conduct" of countries such as Libya, Nicaragua or others, as it sees fit. To put it more simply -- to dictate to them policies that are convenient for Washington.

Thus, it is Libya that is being shelled today -- but they have in their sights all those who do not wish to play the role of a horse under the American cowboy, or forgo their national dignity and sovereignty.

The third point is the extremely dangerous efforts of the present U.S. Administration to subordinate its foreign policy actions to tasks of internal policy. Each time it undertakes one or another military-political adventure beyond the U.S. border, the White House pursues a fully determined domestic political goal: To foment an atmosphere of militarism and chauvinism inside the country and extort more billions of dollars for the arms race. Let us turn to Will again: The action against Libya, he says candidly, should show the taxpayers that their money, by being used on arms, enables the United States "to maintain superpower status and demonstrate American might throughout the world."

Well, what about the indisputable fact that our world has in any case already become too fragile for one to permit oneself such brazen playing with fire? What about the increased responsibility of the superpowers for its destiny, which is verbally acknowledged, it would seem, in Washington, too? The answer suggests itself: Words do not match deeds in the White House. And this divergence is by no means an internal U.S. affair any more; it bodies a threat to universal peace and that means to life itself on the planet.

Bogachev Chides 'Provocations'

LD251941 Moscow TASS in English 1928 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev.

U.S. President Richard Nixon once complained that he had to feign insanity in times of crisis to compel the world to believe in the United States' readiness to go to any extremes in using force. It seems that the present American Administration has no need for a feint in perpetrating insane actions. Its essence is graphically revealed in that, and it takes pleasure in balancing on the brink of an abyss.

Washington managed to compress the latest series of its "pleasures" into an extremely brief period of time, challenging all of mankind, as if flaunting its insantity. The premediated violation by American warships of the USSR's state border off the Crimean coasts, the nuclear weapon test conducted contrary to world public demands, and the provocative actions against Libya -- all these peace-endangering adventures took place in less than two weeks.

Not long ago, the "chicken-out" automobile game was popular in the United States. Two cars were driven at top speed on a narrow road towards each other. The driver who was the first to steer aside lost. Very often, the "winner" found himself in a hospital, or in a graveyard. It seems that Washington is now inviting the entire world to play the idiotic American game.

Outrageous provocations will not give political gains to their organizers. But one should not belittle their danger. This calls for great vigilance on the part of all peoples in the world, all sober-minded people on earth.

U.S. Seeks NATO Involvement

LD252218 Moscow TASS in English 2212 GMT 25 Mar 86

["NATO Base in Italy Alerted" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] Rome March 25 TASS -- The United States is trying to draw West European NATO countries into the armed aggression which it has unleashed against Libya. According to the Italian news agency, a NATO base at Bagnoli near Naples. [sentence as received] The news agency points out that this happened after the air and naval forces of the USA and Libya clashed in the Gulf of Sidra.

Speaking in the Senate, Bettino Craxi, chairman of Italy's Council of Ministers, said he had met with the U.S. ambassador to Italy today and handed over to him the Italian Government's message addressed to the U.S. Administration. In the message the Italian Government points out the need "to take measures to avoid a recurrence of military clashes which may lead to still more difficult and uncontrolled situations."

Walters' Remarks Refuted

LD260649 Moscow TASS in English 0629 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 26 TASS -- Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador at the U.N., has made a cynical and at the same time futile attempt to justify the gross act of aggression against Libya in violation of all the norms of the international law. His letter to the chairman of the U.N. Security Council is full of all kinds of evasions. He writes about firm restraint allegedly displayed by the U.S. pirates, about its "right to self-defense" and about the "response to hostile actions" of Libya against the ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet which had no evil intentions with regard to that country, as though this extremely dangerous armed action of the U.S., the next in turn [as received], were staged not off Libya's shores, but close to the American coast. It is pointed out in the U.N. circles that the U.S. mission at the U.N. has to invent plausible excuses for U.S. actions in the atmosphere of indignation of the world community over the policy of state terrorism pursued by the U.S., to think beforehand over various pretexts for the continuation of the armed actions with which the U.S. ambassador at the U.N. openly threatens Libya.

Soviet UN Envoy Cited

LD260037 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to the United Nations has condemned the U.S. military aggression against the Jamahiriyah. He reaffirmed that this aggression is a clear violation of international law.

The Soviet ambassador, in a statement made today in New York, said that the U.S. premeditated military escalation against the Jamahiriyah is because of the Jamahiriyah's brave and principled attitudes vis-a-vis the Arab issue and questions of liberation the world over -- attitudes which are not to the liking of the imperialist U.S. Government. The Soviet ambassador referred to U.S. hypocrisy which was apparent in the Reagan administration's claim of protecting navigation in the Mediterranean and this administration's flagrant violation of Soviet and Bulgarian territorial waters in the Black Sea. The ambassador wondered: Who has asked the United States to protect navigation? Who has asked the United States to install itself as a police guard in the region? How can small Libya threaten the United States?

FURTHER REACTION TO BLACK SEA NAVAL INCIDENT

'Provocation' Assailed

PM251625 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Mar 86 First Edition p 3

[A. Mozgovoy article under the rubric "Of Interest to the Reader"; "Flouting the Law"]

[Text] These days the editorial office is receiving many telephone calls: Readers are interested in the details of the incident that occurred in the Black Sea off the south coast of the Crimea. N. Sedova of Moscow asks, in particular: "On what grounds did U.S. warships violate the USSR state border?"

As already reported, last Tuesday the USSR Foreign Ministry passed to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow a protest note at the violation of our country's state border by American warships in the Black Sea off the south coast of the Crimea on 13 March this year. The note emphasizes that that action by the U.S. Navy was of a demonstrative and defiant nature and pursued clearly provocative ends.

The U.S. Navy department hastened to issue a statement in which it tried to justify the insolent sally with references to the right of ships' peaceful passage through another state's territorial waters. Yes, such a right does exist. And it is in accordance with Soviet legislation. However, peaceful passage is not permitted for the perpetration of any actions detrimental to peace or to the usages and security of the Soviet state.

The peaceful passage of ships is also rigidly governed by the 1982 International Law of the Sea Convention. This document contains a detailed list of actions that may reasonably be categorized as violating peace. These include, in particular: "gathering information to the detriment of a littoral state's defense and security; propaganda with a view to encroaching on a littoral state's defense or security." This was precisely what the American cruiser Yorktown and the destroyer Caron were doing off the Crimean coast. "Two American warships equipped with numerous electronic instruments," THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, "entered Soviet territorial waters in the Black Sea for the purpose of testing the Soviet defense system." That is, we have here an instance of gathering information to the detriment of the USSR's defense and security.

The same NEW YORK TIMES also points to the propaganda nature of the "Black Sea raid" by the Yorktown and the Caron. "During previous incidents when the United States flexed its military muscles, so officials (in the U.S. Administration -- A.M.) claim, the President's popularity increased sharply, and his policies gained new support in Congress." And the White House is now in dire need of such "support," since the Republican administration's request for further astronomic military appropriations for fiscal 1987 is being held up by the legislators.

By organizing the provocation off the Crimea's shores the Pentagon is endeavoring to inflame militarist passions in the United States and push its budget through Congress, whose implementation undoubtedly threatens international security, including the USSR's security.

It is also worth dwelling particularly on another aspect of what happened. The point is that the Yorktown and the Caron should not have entered the Black Sea at all. In accordance with the 1936 convention on the regime of the Black Sea straits, in peacetime only light surface warships of states without a Black Sea coastline enjoy the right of freedom of passage through those straits. Those warships "which do not have guns with a caliber over 203mm" are in this class. The American cruiser and destroyer are equipped with Harpoon, standard, and ASROC missiles which considerably exceed that limit. What is more, they also have nuclear ammunition.

In other words, the U.S. Navy's "flexing of muscles" off Soviet shores has nothing to do with the right of peaceful passage and is a gross violation of international conventions and a shameless provocation.

'Gravest' Consequences Hinted

LD220440 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Commentary by news analyst Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] The United States Embassy in Sofia has this week been handed a note of protest about a violation of a northern sector of the Bulgarian national frontier in the Black Sea by American naval vessels on the 16th of this month. Here's comment by news analyst Vladislav Kozyakov:

This United States violation of another country's frontier is, unfortunately, not a rare occurrence, not by a long shot. This latest infringement of the Bulgarian frontier by American naval vessels is the fourth in 2 years. These actions, as the Bulgarian protest note to the United States Embassy says, are of an arrogant character and pursue patently provocative hostile ends. Just before this incident off Bulgarian shores, American warships violated the territorial waters of the Soviet Union off the southern coast of the Crimean Peninsula. They intruded into the 12-mile zone of Soviet territorial waters. Moreover, this was clearly done on orders from senior United States Administration officials as part of a spy operation to gather intelligence about Soviet defenses. These action by American warships likewise evoked a protest. Soviet note described them as provocative and said such actions were fraught with grave consequences.

Parallel with these actions the United States continues naval maneuvers off the shores of Libya involving carriers and other naval vessels. These war games are being held despite repeated protests from Libya and other countries in the region and even despite warnings from a number of political leaders in the United States itself to the effect that this show of strength near the Libyan coast could lead to an armed conflict.

If we took the last several years, all the American violations of other countries' sovereignty would be hard to even list. Recall for instance the sending of the South Korean airliner, the KAL 007, to spy on Soviet defense installations in the Kamchatka Peninsula and on Sakhalin Island, or the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, which was done on written orders by the United States President himself.

Evidently, generally accepted rules of international law and respect for the sovereignty and national frontiers of other countries are seen by the present United States Administration as cramping its style. Such a policy, if continued, could entail the gravest possible consequences for nations, not least for the American nation itself.

BOVIN DENOUNCES U.S. SUPPORT FOR CONTRAS

PM251325 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition pp 4-5

[Article by IZVESTIYA political observer A. Bovin: "Hysterics in Washington"]

[Text] I was given an album of political cartoons in Managua. One of them -- drawn by the Mexican artist Jorge Carreno -- is on this page. The correlation of forces is to scale, so to speak. [cartoon shows an elephant holding a flag with the initials "R.R." on it, standing on a chair, and looking panic-stricken at a mouse wearing a sombrero]

It is all very well to laugh, but the impression is that Washington really is shaking with fear. At any rate, it is a long time since it has seen the kind of hysterics that have occurred in the last couple of weeks. The White House pulled out all stops in its efforts to secure congressional agreement to give the "contras" military and financial aid worth $100 million. Senators and congressmen were intimidated in the most direct sense of the word. Those who take exception to the President's Nicaraguan adventure were branded anti-American, unpatriotic, supporters of communism, and protectors of Moscow's interests.

Many were successfully intimidated and made to abandon common sense. For all that, the House of Representatives rejected the President's demand.

But the White House has not given up. The psychological attack on Congress and on the public continues. And since the difference between the U. S. and Nicaraguan weight categories, apparent not only to the cartooniest, gives the White House's behavior a note of paranoia, the administration is seeking to demonstrate that the "Nicaraguan threat" is merely the outward expression of much more dangerous "threats." Judging by the U.S. President's speeches, the chain of evidence is as follows.

If a "second Cuba" or "second Libya" appears in Central America, then "Soviet military bases" will be constructed there, right on the U.S. "doorstep."

If "Soviet military bases" appear, the "small and fragile democracies" in Central America will collapse. If the "small and fragile democracies" collapse, the threat of a Panama Canal blockade will emerge and there will be a real prospect of an attack on Mexico and a "massive migration" of refugees to the United States.

All this, R. Reagan claims, would be a "strategic catastrophe." And that's not all. If "hostile, aggressive, communist states" emerge near the U.S. boarders and if, therefore, the "Reds" hold sway in the Caribbean, the United States will be unable to defend Western Europe and Israel. And the "Russians" will take control of them.

No doubt the reader thinks that I am parodying the President. Nothing of the sort. It is a concise but accurate exposition of the gist of several speeches by the White House head. And at that level, at the level proposed by Washington, it is foolish to argue. Neither arguments nor logic will do any good. One can only express regret ... Last year the Washington Institute for Policy Studies published a report with the striking title: "A Challenge to Congress: Reagan's Record of Lies and Illegal Acts in Central America." The report lists 70 occasions when the administration has misled Congress. These figures are now obviously out of date.

The U.S. President said that the Sandinists are "giving support in the form of military training, safe refuge, communications, forged documents, safe transit, and occasionally in the form of weapons" to radicals from many Latin American countries, including Brazil. The response to this was an official representation by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and indignant articles in Brazilian papers. In an editorial entitled "An Infantile Speech," the paper FOLHA DE SAO PAULO stressed that R. Reagan's speech was a further demonstration of the "primitive and ridiculous nature of U.S. arguments and the irrationality of U.S. strategy in the Central American crisis."

There is more. The President appeared on television showing a photograph of, he said, a "senior assistant of one of the nine commanders... loading on an aircraft an illegal cargo of drugs destined for the United States." There was a response from the U.S. narcotics adminstration repudiating what the President had said.

The situation is as follows.

When R. Reagan requested the first (officially the first, that is) $27 million for the "contras." member of the House of Representatives Norman Mineta said: "We must not try to fool people. To be frank, the administration is asking Congress to allocate U.S. aid for the overthrow of another country's government." That is precisely it. And practically everyone in Latin America knows it. The brazen U.S. policy is even provoking protests from politicians who are ideologically remote from the Sandinists.

Colombian President Belisario Betancur: "I believe that such an initiative as President Reagan's request for $100 million is a mistake. I know that we can achieve more through talks."

Peruvian President Alan Garcia will break off relations with any state that attacks Nicaragua, "as if it was aggression against Peru."

Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo: Our country will not allow its territory to be used "for the transfer of U.S. aid to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries."

Maybe the White House has the support of Stroessner and Pinochet. But that is the White House's bad luck.

Perhaps it is worth mentioning another U.S. argument. The President, a "senior administration spokesman" said, sees the forthcoming Congress vote as a "turning point," an event of importance for the whole of U.S. foreign policy and for the U.S. ability to demonstrate "the strength and firmness that will make the Soviet Union carry out a fundamental reassessment of its political options for actions in the Third World." Now that is a serious argument. But I am going to have to disappoint the "senior spokesmen." The purpose and nature of the USSR's actions are not determined by "strength and firmness" at all. The USSR's foreign policy is determined by the Soviet Union's vital interests, our notions of right and justice, our desire for peaceful cooperation with all states.

As for the "strength and firmness" displayed by America in order to overthrow the legitimate government of a sovereign country they will leave Washington no better off than when it started as has happened more than once in the past.

U.S. BUSINESSMEN URGE EXPANDED TRADE WITH USSR

PM251144 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "USSR-U.S.: The Voice of Business People"]

[Text] Washington, 21 Mar -- The expansion of trade and economic ties between the USSR and the United States is possible and desirable. This idea was stressed by the representatives of American business circles speaking at the opening of a forum on American-Soviet trade relations organized by the American Committee on East-West accord.

"The Soviet-American summit meeting cleared the way to expanding bilateral ties and trade," Donald Kendall, chairman of the board of directors of Pepsico stated. "We are interested in strengthening bilateral ties."

For his part, Edwin Dodd, director of Owen-Illinois Inc., who has many years of experience of trading with the USSR, stressed that "there are many opportunities" for expanding it. At the same time he noted that certain actions by the Washington administration can have highly adverse consequences for the establishment of normal Soviet-American trade contacts.

Addressing the session, U.S. Secetary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige noted that certain prospects for expanding American-Soviet trade have opened up.

He pointed out that within "the framework of the existing rules" American companies can carry out trade in equipment for agriculture, the forestry, mining, and paper industries, environmental control devices, and other kinds of equipment. M. Baldrige noted that the volume of American exports to the USSR this year will, as expected, amount to around $2.3 billion.

NEW TIMES PUBLISHES INTERVIEW WITH BABRAK KARMAL

PM241035 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 10, 17 Mar 86 pp 7-8

[Interview with Afghanistan President Babrak Karmal by Dmitriy Zgerskiy: "Babrak Karmal: Ardous Path, Worthy Goal" -- date, place not given]

[Text] [Zgerskiy] First of all, Comrade Karmal, what are your impressions as a guest at the 27th Congress, which is such an important event for every Soviet citizen?

[Karmal] I must say that the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is a milestone not only in the life of the U.S.S.R., but of all the progressive mankind. Initial reactions have already shown the deep impression the Political Report by Mikhail Gorbachev has produced worldwide, especially amongst progressive forces. It was quintessentially Leninist and reflected the leading and guiding role the CPSU is playing in all spheres of life in Soviet society, in political, scientific, cultural and other areas. Moreover, the report is to my mind a landmark in the evolution of political thought.

It is hard to single out any individual element in the political report and other congress documents as being the most significant. But it is safe to stress one important aspect: to-day when the Damocles sword of nuclear catastrophe hangs over the planet, the 27th CPSU Congress has taken a constructive stand in defense of peace, for the security of all peoples. I believe that the position of the Soviet Union is of truly immense significance in the defence of peace at a time when the destiny of human civilization hangs in the balance.

We are proud that our delegation should have taken part in the work of the 27th Congress. I am already aware of the profound satisfaction inspired in my revolutionary country by that part of the Political Report which offers a logical and perfectly valid assessment of the situation that has now taken shape in Afghanistan and on its borders.

Yes, we have to repel aggressive incursions on the part of Afghan reactionaries backed by imperialism. However, we are today still more confident of the victory of the revolution and the fact that our party and government have taken up a correct and principled position. That is why they enjoy the support of the great Soviet Union. It can be said that our path is arduous, but our goal is worthy.

We should like to express our appreciation to Comrade Gorbachev for the support and understanding of our position expressed in the Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress.

[Zgerskiy] You have said that Afghanistan has to repel the incursions on the part of reactionaries backed by imperialism. Could you tell us about it in more detail?

[Karmal] I'll try to be specific. About 150 centres have been set up in Pakistan, Iran and China which annually train 40,000-50,000 counterrevolutionary bandits for subversive acts against the Democratic Afghanistan.

Now about Washington's role. We are speaking of an undeclared war waged by the U.S. against Afghanistan. You can judge for yourself: in recent years the American government has allocated almost $1.5 billion to the criminal war against our people.

In addition to that, Japan, the F.R.G., Saudi Arabia and a number of reactionary international organizations annually finance Afghan counterrevolution to the tune of a billion dollars. China and Pakistan have made available to counterrevolutionaries vast quantities of hardware, military equipment, and heavy weaponry, including missiles.

And so, it came about that the PDPA became a fighting party. It has managed to organize an appropriate rebuff to internal and external enemies of the revolution and arouse the people to defend their country. Almost two thirds of the Party members have been sent to join the armed forces. Fighting the dushmans shoulder-to-shoulder with the army and people's militia are local self-defence units, tribal voluntary forces, and regiments and battalions of border malishes (volunteer people's fighters helping the frontier guards).

We cannot but speak of our losses. The undeclared war imposed on us is the gravest trial for the young republic and its long-suffering people. The counterrevolutionaries have destroyed and burned 39 state-owned enterprises, 250 mosques and prayer houses, 2,707 schools and 130 medical centres. Material damage amounts to 36 billion afghani (100 afghani equals 1.47 rubles -- ed). Now one in every two budget afghani, one in two metres of fabric, one in two loaves of bread go to the soldiers of the revolution, to the defence of the country. A peaceful country which had not waged war against anyone since 1919 has increasing numbers of women wearing black mourning kerchiefs. At the suggestion of the wives and mothers of dead patriots we have established a Union of Widows, probably the only in the world.

As regards the question of bringing an end to the undeclared war, the Party and the government are taking every measure to settle the Afghanistan situation by peaceful political means. The main content of these measures is a complete end to and guaranteed non-resumption of armed and any other outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. We are trying to solve these problems at the Geneva talks. However, despite repeated proposals from our side, Pakistan has rejected direct negotiations. In Geneva we took an important step and presented the Pakistani delegation, through Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the U.N. secretary-general, with a summary of the draft document on the interconnection between agreements on non-interference, guarantees and refugees and the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent. But this time again, the Pakistani side, under pressure from the U.S.A., has failed to reciprocate.

[Zgerskiy] Comrade Karmal, you have stated on more than one occasion that external imperialist forces must be opposed by the unity of the Afghan people. What is being done in your republic to broaden the social base of your popular revolution!

[Karmal] Our Party is carrying out work amongst the people in three directions. First, the strengthening of its own ranks. More and more patriots, coming forward from all social strata, are linking their destinies with that of the Party. It now has about 150,000 members, eight times more than before the revolution. We are proud that every year more and more workers, peasants and artisans are joining the PDPA. They account for almost 35 per cent of Party membership. More than half of the candidate members of the party are young men and women who have passed through the school of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan. At the same time the Party is being joined by representatives of older generations, who bring with them the heroic traditions of the peoples and tribes.

As women become more active in social, political and economic life their influx into the Party increases. Over the past six years the number of women in the PDPA has doubled to reach 12,000.

I want to note that Afghanistan is a multinational country and accordingly the PDPA is a multinational party. Representatives of 20 nationalities, ethnic groups and tribes are united in the Party ranks.

The party has determined a new approach to expanding the social base which envisages:

-- establishing contacts, through constructive dialogue and cooperation, with non-revolutionary groups and elements and with part of those forces that have so far been hostile to us:

-- creating socio-political organizations and groups which, while not opposing the goals of the revolution, and observing the humanitarian laws of the Democratic Afghanistan, would help realize the aspirations and interests of various social strata and classes;

-- broadening the composition of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, the local bodies of power, by involving patriotically-minded representatives of all strata and groups of the population, notably workers, peasants, servicemen, intellectuals, artisans, clergy, chiefs and elders, entrepreneurs and traders, scientists, cultural workers, women, and former members of counterrevolutionary bands who have gone over to the side of the revolution.

These are not mere declarations of intent. Work is being done. During the past three months the Revolutionary Council, the supreme government body, has been increased by 79 people, to more than twice its former size. The Council of Ministers has been increased by 25 people. Seventy per cent of the newly elected and appointed members of the top bodies are non-party people. There is now every ground for saying that the leading tribal and religious authorities, scientists and cultural workers are involved in running the revolutionary state with the workers and peasants.

As for the elections to local government bodies, these are the first genuinely free democratic elections in the history of Afghanistan. True, we have had to carry them out in stages because of the tense situation and the undeclared war. Elections have already been held in a third of the provinces. And imaging, despite the difficulties created by aggression and counterrevolution, 90 per cent of the electorate went to the polls. Workers and peasants constitute 49.2 per cent of the newly elected jirgahs (local councils). Amongst those elected by the people are representatives of all classes, strata and groups in the population, most of them non-Party people. For the first time women have been elected to the jirgahs.

Finally, the social base is being broadened by means of the main links in the political system, the mass public organizations.

Since the revolution, membership of the trade unions has increased from 28,000 to 280,000, of the Democratic Youth Organization from 5,000 to 155,000, and the Democratic Women's Organization from 3,000 to 50,000. The Party has realized its ideal of uniting all progressive and patriotic forces under the banner of the revolution and had initiated the creation of the National Fatherland Front of Afghanistan. Today the Front has about 800,000 members which include members of trade unions, women's and youth organizations, unions of creative intellectuals, the Consultative Economic Council of the D.R.A., the councils of unlemas and clergy, jirgahs, tribal representatives and the D.R.A. organizations for peace and solidarity, all in all, 18 organizations and associations. The Fatherland Front also includes individual members who are not affiliated to the Party or any organization.

[Zgerskiy] What have you achieved on the economic front!

[Karmal] Let me make comparisons with the prerevolutionary level. The generation of electric energy has increased 1.5 times, the production of building materials has risen fivefold and the volume of freight haulage tenfold.

Land and water reform is under way, and since its inception 335,000 peasant familes have received plots of land. Furthermore, the revolution has relieved peasants of burdensome debts to feudal landlords and money-lenders. The cooperative movement is gaining in scope.

Even so, I have to admit that the Party's influence amongst the peasants is insufficient. The number of PDPA members among the peasants is still low. At the new stage of the revolution the Party and government are carrying out patient and purposeful work amongst the peasants regarding land and water reform both as an important goal of the revoultion and as means of involving the majority of the population in democratic change, making them genuine allies of the working class. This strengthens revolutionary power, extends its social base and normalizes the situation.

The Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers have developed draft Main Guidelines for the economic and social development of the country from 1986 to 1990, which envisages a 25-percent increase in the gross national product and a further rise in living standards. We are committed to strengthening the public sector which at present accounts for over 60 per cent of industrial output.

Wages and salaries have been raised twice. The people's incomes have grown 1.9 times. A total of about 400,000 square meters of housing has been built, financed by the government. The number of hospital beds has increased by 80 per cent, and the number of doctors, by 40 per cent.

Before the revolution 90 per cent of the population of Afghanistan could neither read nor write. We have built 409 schools and the number of kindergartens has increased ten times. We have established 13 Motherland boarding schools for children whose parents died fighting for the revolution.

Mention must be made of the extensive assistance the Soviet Union is rendering us. Suffice it to say that 20 economic projects have been built, or are under construction in Afghanistan with Soviet assistance. Public sector enterprises, set up with Soviet assistance, account for about 75 percent of our industrial output.

For our people, friendship with the U.S.S.R. is not only a noble historical tradition, not only a national principle, but a vital political necessity. It is a reliable guarantee of the terrirotial integrity, independance and sovereignty of Afghanistan as a free, peaceful, nonaligned state.

FURTHER ON SOLOMENTSEV CSSR VISIT, CPCZ CONGRESS

PRAVDA Preview

PM241227 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[Dispatch by special correspondents B. Averchenko and S. Vtorushin: "From Congress to Congress"]

[Text] Prague, 23 Mar -- Spring has come to the streets of the Czechoslovak capital. The Prague parks and gardens have been filled with the sound of birds singing and the first blooms are appearing. But these spring motifs are not the attribute of nature alone.

Special elation can be felt now in public life and the people's mood. The 17th CPCZ Congress begins its work in Prague today. The Czechoslovak people link with the name of the Communist Party the most dynamic period of their history and the main, determining achievements in the development of science and culture and the democratization of society.

In the less than 4 decades that have elapsed since the victory of the February 1948 revolution, the country has changed out of all recognition. The volume of industrial output, for instance, has increased 13 times and agriculture output has increased 120 percent. In this time about 3.5 million apartments and thousands of schools, hospitals, libraries, and kindergartens have been constructed. The people's living standard has risen many times over. Czechoslovakia has won high international prestige. It now maintains diplomatic and trade relations with over 140 states and is the author of a whole series of initiatives aimed at strengthening peace, security, and cooperation among peoples.

Every CPCZ congress is a milestone on the path of the country's further headway and the consolidation of the party's prestige and leading role in Czechoslovak society. At the same time it is an important event in the family of fraternal peoples of the socialist community countries and entire world communist movement.

The CPCZ's present supreme forum is beginning its work after the 27th CPSU Congress with whose decisions and materials Czechoslovak Communists are attentively acquainting themselves.

"The results of the party forum in Moscow inspire us and instill confidence and optimism," Hero of Socialist Labor Antonin Mlady, a delegate to the 17th CPCZ Congress and team leader at the ("CKD-Kompressory") plant, says. "We know how it keenly raised questions of the accelerated development of the economy, the intensification of production, and the enhancement of the party's role and prestige in society. At our congress we will discuss complex tasks and problems. To win the competition with capitalism and defend the cause of peace we must tirelessly strengthen the economy and develop science and technology."

Greeting the present party forum, the CSSR Communists are summing up the results of the work done since the 16th CPCZ Congress. They note that as a whole the main tasks projected in the field of the economy and social development have been fulfilled and for some avenues they have been overfulfilled. The country has taken one more step forward on the path of the further consolidation of the material-technical base of socialism.

The Czechoslovak press is citing many instances and examples showing the results of the quest, initiative, and skilled, thoughtful economic management and also the presence of major reserves. Thus in the last 5-year plan fuel and energy expenditure in the national economy dropped by 1.7 percent a year as against the 0.9 percent envisaged by the plan. This result could only be achieved thanks to the rationalization and intensification of production. The movement for economy and thrift played an important part here.

The republic's rural workers achieved marked results. The 5-year plan for the production of agricultural output was overfulfilled by 4.2 percent. For instance, in the past 3 years the annual grain harvest has been over 11.5 million tons while average yields reached 46 quintals per hectare. The stockraisers also worked well. In the 5-year period they produced 483,000 tons of meat and more than 3.3 million tons of milk over and above the plan.

But the Communists still see many opportunities for improving production. This was mentioned by delegates at many regional, city, and provincial report and election conferences held on the eve of the 17th congress. They pointed to the need to make better use of existing resources and opportunities and to transfer the economy more rapidly to an intensive footing. The conference in Kolin region was characteristic in this respect.

"In the 5-year period we have succeeded in raising the grain crop yield from 40 to 54.4 quintals per hectare," (Yozef Rzhiga), secretary of the regional party committee, says. "Much has also been done in stockraising. A decisive part in achieving these results was played by the fact that the party organizations have embarked in earnest on the implementation of the program to intensify production, have stepped up control over the introduction of the best methods and means of work, and are themselves setting an example of highly productive work."

"He who struggles not in words but in deeds to accelerate the development of production unfailingly finds opportunities and achieves success," the conference delegates noted.

"The key to success today is scientific-technical progress at every enterprise and in every laboratory," Jiri Svoboda, director of the "Tesla-Kolin" plant, says. "We have considerably shortened the 'idea-planning-production of new item' chain and thanks to this have sharply accelerated the assimilation of new types of output."

Examining the activity of the party committees and bureaus for the period under review, in their speeches at meetings and conferences the Communists devoted great attention to the improvement and amelioration of ideological work, which should accord with present-day needs and requirements and comply with the next tasks of socialist building. The speakers pointed to the importance of being concerned for young people and their ideological tempering.

The report and election campaign in the CPCZ was marked by the growth of the political activeness and labor initiative of Communists and nonparty people. The majority of speeches at the conferences were marked by a specific and businesslike examination of urgent tasks, introduced a critical spirit to preparation for the party congress, and intensified the desire to eliminate shortcomings more rapidly.

Socialist competition has acquired new scope. The precongress initiative of Prague's "CKD-Elektrotechnika," "Technometra" and "Kotire" industrial automation plant enterprises aimed at accelerating scientific-technical progress has resounded throughout the country.

The initiators of the venture set the goal of reducing the time taken to develop and assimilate the production of new equipment, sharply improve its quality, and develop the modernization of shops and sectors. Here is what Frantisek (Batsek), chief of the Prague CPCZ City Committee industrial section, says in this connection:

"The people of Prague are struggling to turn the capital into a modern socialist city. We have considered to a considerable extent in resolving many complex problems. Primarily the transport problem. New bridges and roads have been constructed and a subway has been commissioned. A very large amount of work has been done to improve the services sphere. Now we must modernize present-day industry. Here we set the task of ensuring that modernization is implemented not only by assimilating centralized captial investments but mainly as a result of initiative from below and the revelation of local reserves."

The Prague people's initiative has been widely disseminated. Over 100 very large enterprises in various regions of the country have associated themselves to it. The city committee cited the following example.

Five robotized sectors appeared at the "CKD-Trakce" plant. The robots made it possible to save raw and semifinished materials and energy worth over 3.5 million korunas a year and also released a large number of workers.

"The movement to modernize production and improve the technical standard of articles is geared to the long term. We will work on this throughout the 5-year plan and beyond," our interlocutors said.

Czechoslovakia is a full member of the socialist community. It takes an active part in the activity of CMEA and the Warsaw Pact and is deepening its multifaceted economic and scientific-technical cooperation with the fraternal socialist countries. This is helping it to develop the economy stably, to resolve many complex problems more successfully, and to overcome the difficulties which arise. The CSSR fully supports the process of accelerating socialist economic integration and the implementation of the CMEA countries' comprehensive program of scientific-technical progress through the year 2000.

Our Czechoslovak friends rate highly their relations of fraternal collaboration with the Soviet Union and advocate their further expansion and intensification. Forms of cooperation like direct ties, production sharing, and the creation of joint enterprises are being developed increasingly broadly. The joint Czechoslovak-Soviet "robot" scientific-technical association has been in operation for a year now. Its collective has created several prototypes of modern equipment.

Production sharing is being deepened. In Kolin City we visited the "Frigera" plant. Refrigerator units for refrigerator trucks are its main export.

"We send a large proportion of these items to the USSR," Lubomir (Boloubek), secretary of the enterprise party committee, said. "I will not be exaggerating if I say that cooperation with Soviet friends has given our plant a second life. Previously we made units for our own 'Orlican' enterprise, which supplies finished refrigerator trucks to the USSR. Now a similar plant has been constructed in the Soviet Union. And we must make refrigerator units for two enterprises at once. We have had to expand production and accelerate its modernization."

Such concerns gladden the Czechoslovak machine builders. These ties are also to our advantage. Production sharing not only strengthens the two countries' cooperation, it also helps to make better use of scientific-technical and production potential and to make more rapid headway.

Under the spring sunshine, golden Prague looks particularly beautiful and elegant. Today the bunting of the state flag and the purple banners is fluttering over its streets and squares. Delegates to the Communists' supreme forum are converging on the capital from all corners of the republic. The Prague people are warmly welcoming the foreign guests who are coming to the congress representing the communist and workers parties and various revolutionary and national liberation movements. They are welcoming as their closest friends the Soviet envoys -- the CPSU delegation headed by M.S. Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee.

The party of the Czechoslovak Communists has come to its 17th congress organizational stengthened and cohesive, in close union with the people. It has a clear policy and a firm course. It is full of energy and the determination to raise its activity to the level of the requirements of the present stage of building the new society.

Solomentsev Speaks

LD251922 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee, head of the CPSU delegation, spoke today at the 17th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and was warmly welcomed by those assembled. He said in part: We listened with great interest to the CPCZ Central Committee political report delivered by Comrade Gustav Husak. This profound and weighty document sums up the results of the work of your party and people in the past 5 years.

In spite of all the differences in the concrete conditions of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, we have common needs: the need to accelerate the pace and raise the tempo of social and economic development and fully uncover the enormous potential which socialism contains. The strategy of acceleration, which was first put forward by the CPSU Central Committee plenum last April, has become the core of the decisions of our party's 27th congress.

The significance of the congress is determined by the very contents of the crucial stage in which our country finds itself. Characteristic of this stage is the courageous, innovative, and genuinely revolutionary approach to the complex problems we are facing on the eve of the 21st century. The congress, which took place in a spirit of creative Marxism-Leninism and Bolshevik traditions, has armed the Communists and all Soviet people with a clear vision of the prospects for social development.

The program documents of the 27th congress, Comrade Solomentsev continued, express the resolve of the CPSU to continue to steadfastly expand and deepen cooperation with the communist and workers parties of the fraternal countries, and to contribute in every way to strengthening their unity. There is no need to speak of how great the importance of such unity is in the current situation. It is gladdening that relations between the CPSU and the CPCZ are a great example of socialist internationalism.

Clear new evidence of this was provided by the recent Moscow meeting of the leaders of the two parties, Comrades Gorbachev and Husak, which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and complet unity of views.

Quite recently we witnessed a brilliant experiment, the investigation of Halley's comet by space instruments which were designed and equipped by the efforts of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and a number of countries. This is an example of how progressive technological thinking has found and must find a worthy humanitarian use.

At the present time, however, this involves only individual examples of this kind. Unfortunately, human intellect and vast material resource are being wasted on something else: Aggressive imperialist circles are continuing to whip up the arms race on earth and are not giving up their intention to spread it into space. It is quite natural that mankind will not be able to feel secure until this is ended.

The Soviet Union will use any opportunity to halt the tendency of the growing danger of war. In this noble endeavor we will, as we have in the past, act in close unity with socialist Czechoslovakia and the other fraternal countries, and cooperate actively with all progressive and peace-loving forces. Our good will and the solidarity and support of the countries of the socialist community will continue to be on the side of the peoples struggling for freedom and independence.

More on Address

LD261010 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1520 GMT 25 Mar 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The 17th CPCZ Congress is continuing its work in Prague. The congress was addressed today by the head of the CPSU delegation, Comrade Solomentsev. He described to those assembled the work of our party's 27th congress and the ardent support with which the Soviet people welcomed its decisions. Further on Comrade Solomentsev said in particular:

[Begin recording] The program documents of the party's 27th congress express the CPSU's resolve to continue in the future to unswervingly broaden and deeped cooperation with communist and workers parties in the fraternal countries, and to promote unity among them in all possible ways. There is no need to say how great is the importance of such unity in the contemporary situation, and it is heartening that relations between the CPSU and the CPCZ are a lofty example of socialist internationalism. Fresh clear evidence of that is provided by the meeting between the leaders of the two parties, Comrades Gorbachev and Husak, which was held recently in Moscow and took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete identity of views.

Current cooperation between our countries encompasses all spheres of social life. We are combining our efforts in the extraction of raw materials, in the building of gigantic power engineering enterprises and in the laying of trunk transport routes. Our joint labors are found in the Soyuz gas pipeline, at atomic power stations and in the Prague Metro. Czechoslovakia takes an active part in projects on the territory of the USSR, in the construction of the Yamburg gas pipeline, the Krivoy Rog ore-concentrating combine, and the Urals gas complex. Even so, nobody would go so far as to say that Soviet-Czechoslovak economic and scientific-technical links have reached their limit. Quite the opposite. It is our joint conviction that there exist great reserves for deepening cooperation, primarily in the most promising forms of this, that is specialization and coordination.

The task today facing the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, and the whole socialist community, together with the acuteness of the competition with capitalism call for a qualitatively new level of economic integration among the fraternal countries. [applause] [end recording]

GORBACHEV RECEIVES JOTTI, VIEWS WORLD SITUATION

LD251440 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received Leonilde Jotti, president of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament and a member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, who is paying a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Appraising the international situation, which had become even more complex over the past few weeks, Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union had not received any satisfactory reply to its proposals aimed at ridding mankind of the nuclear threat. The West's unwillingness to end the race with any armaments and to seek accords on their reduction seriously and on the basis of equality has become clear. He stressed that a responsible approach to politics presupposed readiness actually to reckon with the realities of the new stage of modern history, with the national interests of all states, and respect for the will of one's own people and other peoples and for the world public opinion. Mutual security nowdays calls upon everyone for a new way of thinking and for an understanding of the fact that it can only be achieved by political means, through negotiations. We should learn to live together in today's complex world. Today's international politics need especially strict respect for and a serious attitude to accords and prevention of actions which are worsening the situation, dangerous as it is. Leonilde Jotti outlined the goals of her visit to the USSR, one of them being the extension of direct contacts between parliaments in order to promote peace and rapprochement between the peoples of the two countries, and spoke in favour of more efforts in various forms on the way to detente so as to put an end to the escalation of the nuclear threat and to the squadering of huge resources on military purposes.

The participants in the meeting, which passed in an atmosphere of friendship, reiterated their mutual desire for the continuation of the Soviet-Italian dialogue in order further to develop good relations and cooperation between the USSR and Italy. Italy's ambassador to the USSR, Sergio Romano, was present at the meeting.

FOREIGN MINISTER PROTESTS FRG 'DETENTION'

LD251738 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Foreign Ministry statement on "detention" of Soviet citizen in FRG -- read by announcer]

[Text] The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the USSR Embassy in Bonn have more than once addressed the FRG authorities concerning the forced detention [nasil'stvennoye zaderzhaniye] in the FRG of the USSR citizen Shuvalov. In connection with his return to the motherland and a clarification of the circumstances surrounding the affair, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers it essential to state the following:

On 30 September 1985, Shuvalov, the commercial director of the joint Soviet-West German firm (Neoteip), was admitted to St Anthony Hospital in Cologne with a leg injury. On 24 October, in connection with the conclusion of his treatment he was supposed to be checked out, but when Soviet employees [sotrudniki] came to get him, he was not to be found in the hospital. The hospital administration, as well as the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs, virtually refused to supply the USSR Embassy in Bonn any information whatsoever about the whereabouts of Shuvalov. Nor did any satisfactory answer come from the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the numerous requests of the embassy to meet with Shuvalov and to return him without delay to his place of residence. Instead, on 18 November, the USSR Embassy in the FRG received a letter from certain West German lawyers in Cologne in which they informed the embassy that they had been authorized to represent the interests of the Soviet Citizen Shuvalov. It was also asserted in the letter that Shuvalov was allegedly intending to seek political asylum in the FRG and did not want to have any contacts with Soviet representatives.

During the whole subsequent period the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs also relied on this version and gave negative answers to the insistent demands of the Soviet side for the granting of a meeting with Shuvalov. As it has now become clear, all the statements by the West German side about Shuvalov's unwillingness to meet with Soviet representatives and his intention to remain in the FRG were false. In actual fact, Shuvalov on 24 October, on the day he was checked out of the hospital, was forcibly removed from that place by agents of the FRG special services. Over the next 4 months, he was unceasingly subjected to treatment in which physical, psychological, and other means of influence were used, treatment aimed at encouraging him not to return to the Soviet Union and to force him to sign a petition for political asylum in the FRG or in the United States. This was the immediate concern of FRG Special services employees who went by the names of (Wolfgang Kremer), (Gunter Klemens), (Dornberg),or ones who simply called themselves, Michael, Klaus, Ted, Kurt, Willi, and others. An adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, (OlafGroebel). also had a hand in the provocative venture in connection with the Soviet citizen when Shuvalov was specially removed to the U.S. Embassy.

From the moment of the forcible removal from the hospital and up to the meeting with the representatives of the USSR Embassy in Bonn, Shuvalov was kept in complete isolation. His requests to meet with employees at the USSR Embassy were ignored. Letters from relatives were not passed on. Only one thing was demanded of him: to sign a petition for political asylum; butthe speical Services failed to achieve this.

Aside from this, it became clear to Shuvalov that he would never obtain a meeting with Soviet representatives if he did not at least create the impression that he was inclined toward what was being demanded of him.

To this end, he signed a letter that was dictated to him in which a story, fabricated by the special services, about his voluntary departure to the West was produced; he later promised his persecutors to repeat it at a meeting with Soviet representatives. It is well-known to the FRG authorities what really took place during the meeting between employees of the USSR Embassy in Bonn and Shuvalov.

On 5 March 1986, at the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs, instead of making the statement concocted for him about not returning to the homeland, Shuvalov told the truth about what had happened to hi[illegible] and firmly stated his willingness to return to the Soviet Union as soon as possible.

Thus a shameful provocation against a Soviet citizen failed, to the complete surprise of its organizers. It is still a surprise that even after this the FRG authorities continue to hang on to their false version of what happened to Shuvalov and foist it on the FRG organs of mass information. However, no matter what tricks the FRG special services resort to, they will not be able to cover up the kidnapping and forcible detention of a Soviet citizen or the attempts, by using psychological and physical terror, to make him betray his country.

Such actions are nothing more than a scandalous trampling of human dignity and rights, an unprecedented act of arbitrariness, a gross violation of the elementary norms of interstate relations and international law. It is perfectly obvious that such actions are also incompatible with statements by the FRG Government about its readiness to maintain and develop normal and good relations with the Soviet Union. The USSR Foreign Ministry is making a resolute protest and expects that the persons guilty of kidnapping and forcibly detaining Shuvalov will be taken to task.

SHULTZ ARRIVES IN GREECE AMID DEMONSTRATIONS

LD260714 Moscow TASS in English 0709 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Athens March 26 TASS -- George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, has arrived on a four-day visit in Greece. Main attention at his talks with the Greek leaders will be devoted to the question of the future of the U.S. military bases in that country. On the route from the airport to the centre of the Greek capital, demonstrations of protest repeatedly barred the way to the American visitor and his escort. Demonstrations against the visit of the U.S. secretary of state have also been held in the central park of Athens and in other cities of Greece.

MALTA URGES SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION ON LIBYA

LD260351 Moscow TASS in English 0003 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 26 TASS -- The Government of Malta has requested the urgent convocation of the U.N. Security Council's meeting "to consider the serious situation that has developed in the central Mediterranean". A letter sent by the permanent representative of Malta at the United Nations to the President of the U.N. Security Council emphasizes the need for "essential actions to ease tension and to restore peace and stability in the region". The current extremely explosive situation in the Mediterranean has become a direct consequence of the U.S. militarist bandit actions near the shores of Libya.

FRG CRITICIZED ON PLANNED SDI INVOLVEMENT

PM211429 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Yuliy Yakhontov "Commentator's Column": "Bonn-Washington Compact"]

[Text] Bonn -- The United States and the FRG have reached agreement on the terms for Bonn's involvement in the U.S. "star wars" plans, which are officially called the "Strategic Defense Initiative." As commentators here emphasize, this agreement was reached with striking speed at Federal Chancellor H. Kohl's meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger, who came to the FRG.

According to the official version, this meeting was meant to eliminate the differences that supposedly exist over cooperation within the SDI framework. However, these "differences," which had been on the point of threatening to quite wreck an agreement between Bonn and Washington, suddenly were easily settled. Next week FRG Economics Minister M. Bangemann will set out for the U.S. capital, where two documents are to be signed -- on the terms for West German firms to participate in SDI and a general agreement on technological exchange.

The Kohl-Weinberger accord has elicited undisguised enthusiasm from FRG right-wing circles and representatives of the military-industrial complex. Both have repeatedly voiced dissatisfaction with the delay over signing an official agreement on involvement in SDI. It is very significant in this connection that both H. Kohl and C. Weinberger refused to inform journalists of the details of the talks. Such deliberate secrecy strengthened the FRG progressive public's long-standing suspicions that the version relating to "differences" was deliberately blown up by Bonn with a view to demonstrating its "independence" and "circumspection" in approaching a problem which is of concern to the majority of the country's population.

Representatives of the opposition parties and even some politicians in the ruling coalition's camp still believe that the FRG must not subscribe to SDI. It is also clear that "star wars" will not benefit the civilian sectors of industry here. In addition, as K. Voigt, a prominent Social Democratic Party of Germany figure, pointed out, the damage which could result from shifting the arms race into space will not be covered by any "industrial" gains. And former Federal Chancellor H. Schmidt declared that with the help of the "star wars" plans the United States wants to totally change its military-strategic doctrine and undermine the ABM Treaty with the USSR. He urged Western Europe governments to remind President Reagan that he is not their "political supreme commander in chief."

However, the fact remains that Bonn has once again demonstrated who really leads the Western Europe allies. It has also been confirmed once again that the FRG remains one of the most obedient champions of Washington's militarist course among the NATO partners. This policy only undermines the foundations of European security and runs counter to the fundamental interests of our continent's peoples.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONGRATULATES CHIRAC

PM251449 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] To his Excellency Mr Jacques Chirac, prime minister of the French Republic:

We send you congratulations and best wishes on your appointment as French prime minister. We express confidence that your activity in this lofty post will contribute to further developing cooperation between the Soviet Union and France in the sphere of peace and detente and to strengthening the traditional friendship between the Soviet and French peoples.

The USSR Council of Ministers

SUSPECT IN PALME CASE LINKED TO U.S. GROUP

LD212338 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Correspondent Valentin Gubernatorov report from the "Vremya" newscast]

[ext] Investigations in the case of the assassination of Olof Palme continue in Sweden. The political background to this crime is now becoming increasingly clear. Both within Sweden itself and in other Western countries there have been and there are forces that hated Olof Palme fiercely for his active work in the struggle to preserve peace and to ward off the threat of war. Now Hans Holmer, the Swedish Police Commissioner, is telling journalists that the man who was arrested a few days ago on suspicion of having killed Olof Palme is being released because of insufficient evidence. Well, the police and judicial organs operate within the framework of Swedish laws. However, it has become known for example, that the person arrested belonged to the so-called European Workers Party, an international pro-fascist organization that established itself in Sweden in the mid-seventies. Members of the organization are in favor of Sweden joining NATO and of arming the Swedish Army with neutron weapons. The party headquarters is in the United States. It is headed by a U.S. millionaire, Larouche.

Of late, every substantial event in which Palme has been involved has been noted by the vigilant eye of this organization. Many of its members have undergone special training in the use of pistols in Wiesbaden, West Germany and also at a range in Georgia in the United States. The training is carried out under the pretext of ensuring the protection of the party leadership. But who can guarantee that shooting skills acquired in the FRG or the United States will not come in useful for other purposes, too?

REPORTAGE ON BENDJEDID'S MOSCOW VISIT

Profiled Prior to Arrival

PM251004 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Connection With the Visit by Chadli Bendjedid, President of Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and General Secretary of the National Liberation Front Party, to the Soviet Union"]

[Excerpts] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic Algeria and general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party [FLN], is arriving in Moscow today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government.

Under President C. Bendjedid's leadership, Algeria is resolving questions concerning the implementation of building a new society in accordance with the principles of the FLN Charter, and transformations are being implemented for the purpose of strengthening the country's independence and sovereignty, developing the national economy, and solving social problems. Algeria, adhering to the principles of nonalignment in its foreign policy, holds anti-imperialist and anticolonialist positions, and makes a great contribution to the struggle waged by Arab and African peoples opposing the neocolonialist policy of imperialism and its allies.

The FLN advocates the development of friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. C. Bendjedid has visited our country on several occasions. Soviet people greet President Chadli Bendjedid, and through him the friendly Algerian people, and express confidence that the forthcoming visit will serve the cause of further strengthening the friendship and mutual understanding between our countries and peoples and the cause of consolidating universal peace and international security.

Arrives, Welcomed by Leaders

LD251428 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, general secretary of the National Liberation Front, today arrived on an official friendly visit to Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government.

He was met at the airport by member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Defense Minister Sergey Sokolov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Talyzin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin, other officials.

Meets Gorbachev at Kremlin

LD251605 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, general secretary of the National Liberation Front Party, arrived in Moscow today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government.

At Vnukovo Airport he was greeted at the aircraft ramp by Comrades Gromyko, Shevardnadze, Sokolov, Talyzin, Dobrynin, and other officials. An honor guard was formed. The band played the state anthems of both states. From the airport, the motorcade, with a motorcycle escort of honor, set off for the Kremlin.

At the Kremlin, Bendjedid was greeted in the Georgiyevskiy Hall of the Great Kremlin Palace by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrades Gromyko, Shevardnadze, Sokolov, and Dobrynin were present at the meeting ceremony in the Kremlin.

The state flags of Algeria and the USSR and welcoming banners were hung out on the capital's streets and squares along which the motorcade passed.

Begins Talks With Gorbachev

LD260824 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Soviet-Algerian talks began in the Kremlin today. They are being conducted by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, General Secretary of the National Liberation Front Party Chadli Bendjedid.

Chadli Bendjedid is staying in the USSR since Tuesday at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION CONCLUDES EGYPT VISIT

Press Conference Held

LD240817 Moscow TASS in English 0813 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo March 24 TASS -- TASS correspondent Ratmir Orestov reports:

A delegation of the USSR Surpeme Soviet led by Pavel Gilashvili, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on a visit here gave a press conference for Egyptian journalists. Sharing impressions of the visit, the leader of the delegation noted the hospitality accorded to the Soviet delegation in Egypt. The people of Egypt, he said, remember the firm foundations of Soviet-Egyptian friendship, laid in the early period of its history. Gilashvili expressed the hope that relations between the peoples of the two countries would develop successfully. The exchange of parliamentary delegations, he said, illustrates the possibility of the development of contacts between the Soviet Union and Egypt.

Many questions were asked at the press conference about the importance of the Aswan hydropower complex to the Egyptian economy and about the future of that project. The managers of the power plant and the high dam, Soviet guests said, point out that the complex still is a symbol of Soviet-Egyptian friendship. Egyptian specialists speak highly of the quality of the design of the dam and hydropower station and the equipment supplied by the Soviet Union, which continues to work faultlessly and dependably.

Answering questions about the Soviet stand on the Middle East, the delegation members stressed that it was based on the constructive proposals for settlement in the region put forward last year. The Soviet Union firmly believes that an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the only lawful representative of the Palestinian people, is a sure way to settle the Middle East problem.

At the same time the USSR strongly rejects the attempts to use the conference as a cover for separate deals contrary to the interests of all the Arab peoples. Seeking a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and other parts of the world, the members of the parliamentary delegation stressed, the Soviet Union is strictly following the course of peace, disarmament and international cooperation, put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Meetings Viewed

LD260042 Moscow TASS in English 1859 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo March 25 TASS -- The official visit to the Arab Repulic of Egypt (ARE) by the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation consisting of Pavel Gilashvili, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet (the leader of the delegation), Sergey Losev, Anatoliy Mayorets, Nikolay Popov, and Janikul Yusupov, deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet, is over.

The delegation were received by President Husni Mubarak of the A.R.E. The leader of the Soviet delegation delivered a message to him from the USSR Supreme Soviet. Sincere striving of the two sides for the development of good relations was pointed out during the meeting.

Talks were held with a deputation of the People's Assembly of the A.R.E. headed by the assembly's speaker Rifa't al-Majub. The Soviet parliamentarians also had meetings with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi and with his deputies -- Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and food security, general secretary of the ruling National Democractic Party of the A.R.E. and Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, minister of foreign affairs, as well as with Subji 'Abda al-Hakim, chairman of the Consultative Council (Shura).

The parliamentarians of the USSR informed the Egyptian side of the results of the CPSU's historic 27th Congress which had mapped out a strategy for accelerating further development of Soviet society and for qualitative refinement of all aspects of societal life. The Egyptian side displayed interest in the USSR's constructive proposals on a stage-by-stage, consistent elimination of nuclear weapons around the world. The proposals had been set up in the January 15, 1986, statement of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, [words indistinct] further development in the decisions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU. An opinion was expressed that the implementation of the great plans for accelerating the socio-economic development of the USSR positively tells on the growth of the Soviet Union's prestige in the international arena.

During the discussion of the state of affairs in the Middle East, concern was expressed over the dangerous situation which keeps on there owing to Israel's continuing aggression against the Arabs. Reaffirmed was the Soviet Union's conviction that a comprehensive and just settlement can be achieved in the Middle East through collective actions, within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the sides concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) -- the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

When discussing bilateral relations between the USSR and the A.R.E., the sides reaffirmed their striving for further development of cooperation in various fields on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Returns to Moscow

LD260844 Moscow TASS in English 0831 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Pavel Gilashvili, deputy president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, returned to Moscow from Cairo today. The delegation stayed in Egypt on an official visit.

VOSS RECEIVES IRAQI PARLIAMENT OFFICIAL

PM211133 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ties Are Strengthening"]

[Text] On 19 March, A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Nationalities, met with S.Q. Hammudi, chairman of the Iraqi National Council Committee for Arab and foreign affairs. The talk touched on questions of the further development of interparliamentary contacts between the two countries. S.A.M. al-Faysal, Iraqi ambassador to the USSR, was present.

Visit Concluded

JN232018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 23 Mar (INA) -- Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, has described his meeting with Mr Voss, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, as fruitful and positive and will improve parliamentary relations between the two countries.

In a statement to INA before leaving Moscow today, Hammudi said that he discussed with Voss the agenda of the 75th IPU conference which will be held in Mexico next April. He said that he briefed Voss on the results of the fourth Arab Parliamentary Union Conference which was held in Amman recently. He also informed him of the Arab draft resolution approved by all the Arab parliamentary delegations with the aim of presenting it at the Mexico conferance. The resolution is connected with the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese situation, and the Iraq-Iran war. He said the Soviet side expressed its support for the joint Arab draft resolution.

Hammudi also said that agreement was reached on continuing coordination and consultations between the Arab parliamentary group and the Socialist bloc during the upcoming IPU conference to affirm the joint struggle to foil initiatives planned by enemies of the Arabs and the Soviets, such as Zionists and imperialists.

SOVIET ENOVY MEETS WITH SYRIAN OFFICIAL

JN221427 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA) -- The Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Felix Fedotov, has stressed his country's support for the just Arab causes as well as for Syria's militant positions under President Hafiz al-Asad aimed at foiling the imperialist and Zionist designs in the Arab region. This came during a meeting between People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad al-Zu'bi and the Soviet ambassador here today. The Soviet ambassador conveyed a message to the People's Assembly speaker from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium dealing with parliamentary affairs between Syria and the Soviet Union.